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Scott Feschuk's mailing: Scott answers your queries on current events and life in general www.macleans.ca/feschuk

Maclean's 50: Canada's leading voices comment on the major stories as we cover them www.macleans.ca/macleans50



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The twins at 1

Louise McKry, the grandmother of Canada's only conjoined twins, gives Maclean's an update on Krista and Trillie's first fights, individual personas, wins, and ability to read each other's minds.

macleans.ca/twins


WEB EXCLUSIVES

BLOG CENTRAL



The Commons

Louise McKry's video, interview and photo series of Krista and Trillie's first fights, individual personas, wins, and ability to read each other's minds.

macleans.ca/thecommons


Megapundit

There's only one way to know what's really behind the scenes in this country's daily news.

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EDUCATION



Joey Coleman

Canada's leading student blogger is back on campus.

macleans.ca/joeycoleman


Canada's leading voices comment on the most stories of the week.

macleans.ca/voices

LATEST COMMENTS



Tarek Fatah

"Dirty country has no right to be in Palestine. But why not a country?"

macleans.ca/tarekfatah


Paul Wells

Paul Wells is a political pundit and author of the book 'The Politics of the Commons'.

macleans.ca/paulwells


Scott Feschuk

All your questions answered—all your week's reviewed.

macleans.ca/scottfeschuk


Savage Washington

Core journalist Louise Ch. Savage comments on the week's news.

macleans.ca/savage

TOP STORIES THIS WEEK

Capturing Churchill's savor
A new book, *Churchill in Light and Shadow: The Life of Winston Churchill*, by Mark Thompson, uncovers the real story behind Churchill's life.

2006 belongs to Feist, A Simple Plan...and Céline?
Our music critic picks the best of the year's new releases.

Hop Girl goes mop-less
Toronto's popular hip-hop and R&B artist, Hop Girl, has a new single.

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CLIMATE OF DEBATE

GOD KNOWS David Suzuki has been criticised about everything. The trials of saint Suzuki, *Environment*, Nov. 5. But the miracle is that he is still visible, and has our ear, and still makes us think. This is the result of hard professional work that has stood up to peer pressure, and has been derived from modern science, and thus not been watered down. But it was misinterpreted respectfully as a fashion we understood. And the "me" are not just Catholics, because Suzuki has been recognised, respected and heard around the world for decades. It makes me wonder why Al Gore got half the Nobel Peace Prize. (Angela J. Haller, Kingston, Ont.)

IT WAS THE MEDIA that convinced David Suzuki, and its continuing to see that there is a growing realization that he has always been a message bearer, clearly wrapped in the flag of good causes. (Guy P. French, Toronto)

SOME YELLOW ENVIRONMENTALISTS hate David Suzuki for saying up-to big business and government. As it is becoming clearer that being green can be good economics, the former environmentalist authors are now citing for Suzuki's advice. It is not he who has changed, but his former antagonists. Some of his allies seem to have discovered seeing that he never was at war with those inside cars, but only with their bad practices. (Gretchen Weber, Thornton, Ont.)

LET'S CALL HIM what he really is: an eco-warrior using his own good name for personal financial gain and mere in the spotlight. Suzuki is well aware that the cost of living is absurd and he knows damned well that as long as industries and consumers are burning millions of coal, Kyoto is a fairy tale. In addition, his role as the spokesman for fluorescent bulbs totally ignores the larger problem concerning the wastes that these energy-consuming products will have on the environment once they are in need of disposal. He can storm off at an energy radio show as he likes, but what is really bothering is what a caricature he has allowed himself to become. (Dee-Jed L. Goldman, Toronto)

I HAVE BEEN a struggling advocate for this beloved planet for longer than your "mom."

'Women don't get any "neutral downtime" because they are being worked to death'



I believe there is little chance of us changing whatever it is that convinces *Alma* aspirins to be such mind-on medicines. It is now clear that men is determined to have cars, trucks and planes, and the biggest industry of all, space travel, until no few of us survive to do any more damage. The coming years probably occurred about half a century ago when we replaced railroads with trucks and airplanes and cast our eyes to the moon. The ideas who are in charge, by one means or another, have continued to rape the planet long past the point of no return. Our current *McMans* are essential, as demonstrated by the *Enco*.

and women more miserable." *Society*, Nov. 5. But what women did they poll? No one polled me. I would have posed the following question back at them: could it be that our current level of happiness, far exceeding any level of happiness in the 1950s, is directly related to the fact I dumped the husband who resembled me at that time? (Nancy Roberts, Knoxville, Ont.)

THE EDITORS of the article claiming feminism in the '70s would have "put down their plaid shirts and gone home" if they knew that feminism was would be enjoying the fruits of women's labour is journalism 101. I'm also curious as to why the women didn't contact any of the anti-nuclear biologists in feminist studies at York University and the University of Toronto, preferring instead to quote from American second-wave feminists Gloria Steinem and Susan Faludi. (Jane Haddad, Toronto)

THIS PIECE MADE ME weep over and over again. There's a reason women suffer from the "happiness gap": too often, they're being sacrificed dry by emotional and financial losses. They don't get any of that "neutral downtime" because they're being worked to death. If they quit work, they're seen as uncommitted, backward-looking housewives. We want to think things have changed for the better since the 1970s, but have they? (Margaret Gunning, Port Capricorn, B.C.)



pena, has been to build the Airbus A380, the biggest passenger airplane in the world. With what it takes in fuel, we could go up guided tours to space.

But enough of that, I'm 90 now, so I've had my time. I want all this fun in the 1950s and before. The media, including *Maclean's*, ignored me for the most part and it's likely that you will again. But there are still those who think the earth is flat and anyone is a sign will be. (Ian Carr, Victoria)

BEARING THE BRUNT

THE ARTICLE BY Charlie Giffin and Barbara Kington [good move, by the way, to use co-authors—see article, one female-to avoid criticism for him due to and] primarily discussed the relative levels of happiness, then women now, in traditional female/male couple relationships ("Why men are getting happier,

I subscribe to the now outmoded Judeo-Christian ethic that worked for nearly 2,000 years, but in the past 16 has been challenged by feminists who thought they had a better idea. I have been married for 36 years and devoted my life for the most part to raising my children and looking after my husband, Hal Schaefer, Powell River, B.C.

FEMINISM DID NOT cause women to be unhappy. As Susan Faludi asserts, the self-empowerment movement has changed women's lives. Women are still burdened with a second shift and men still have not stepped up to the plate. (Dale Story, Ottawa)

VENEZUELA, 'FREE AND FAIR' IT IS AMAZING that when confronted with the most significant expansion of democracy



'My family and I never intended to leave Ottawa, but if Larry O'Brien continues to be mayor, we may be forced to flee to a city that cares about its families'

in a greenhouse. Western political elites use a "mad dash to disarmability" ("Hill countrywide Canada," World, Nov. 5). Michael Patrone's article lacks balance and perspective. It omits the democratically elected president of Venezuela, Hugo Chávez, his compassion, authentic and brave, and access to a world of suffering. The only proof of these assertions are the statements of well-known opposition figures such as Leopoldo López and Theodore Petróff, who supported the bloody 2002 right-wing coup against the Venezuelan government. Thus, in itself, should lead us to question these so-called democratic credentials.

In reality, Venezuela is seeing an extension of democracy that the West should be envious of. At the same time as the electoral system in Canada, the U.S., and Britain is facing a crisis of legitimacy (witness the 52 per cent turnout in the recent Ontario elections, for example), Venezuela has massive participation. Sixty-three per cent supported Chávez in the 2006 presidential elections, which were called free and fair by all credible sources. Venezuelans have gained the opportunity to recall their president, an opportunity that U.S. citizens opposed to the Iraq war would love to have. And in the newly proposed constitution, if it passes a democratic referendum later this year, Venezuelans will enjoy a workday without the suspension of power to community councils that will allow people to control their own neighbourhoods.

Readers of Maclean's should ask themselves what kind of dictator expands health care, education, social services and democratic rights for the mass of the population? Alex Grant, former of Venezuela Campaign Coordinator, Toronto

YOUR ARTICLE appears to single out Chávez as a stereotypical Latin American dictator, when in fact he is a typical politician. The U.S. is tired from Chávez's concerns by the two-term limit of the president, although this does not prevent family dysfunction in its history. In Canada, many prime ministers have proved the Prime Principle and even stayed their welcome. Moreover, the U.S. was once friendly with Ben Laden, Batista, Papa Doc, Saddam Hussein and many other dictators and mass murderers, as was convenient. For politicians, consolidation of power is the name of the game and popular

service is the rust. At least Chávez is doing some of that, while neither Canada nor the U.S. seem too preoccupied by it.

Bruce Campbell, Toronto

ELECTING A CLOWN

OTTAWA MAYOR Larry O'Brien/Vassilis has governing style has been devastating for many families and Ottawa's low income population. ("Mayor or may not," National, Nov. 5). As a man of these small children, I was shocked to hear that any subsidized child-care fees could rise from \$46 a month to \$1,500 a month. And as a bachelor of social work student and a youth worker, I was disgusted with Mayor O'Brien's poor-bashing comments, as

who believes difficult only is setting back themselves and their children up for instilling and confusing family lives. It is not surprising to me that someone pursuing a Ph.D. in something as lightweight as cultural history would believe that men are unimportant and not conducive to a good environment for child rearing. I wonder, however, if "Melle" has studied the effects of such men on the psychology of men in the Western world as a whole. And what if she has a son? How will his own sense of self be affected by her previously negative view of men? Sounds like a new form of patriarchy, doesn't it?

Drew Marshall, Toronto

CHAVEZ about town: he is consolidating power, a reader says, that's what politicians do



well as the elimination of the harm reduction crack pipe distribution program. My family and I never intended to leave Ottawa, but if O'Brien remains mayor, we may be forced to flee to a city that cares about its families. We voted for a mayor, but elected a clown.

Cathy Brothman, Ottawa

AND BABY MAKES TWO

THE FACT IS that while some women might choose to make radical, unethical, and ultimately destructive decisions about reproduction and families, the great majority of North American lead lives in normal and supportive families where men play a constructive and loving role ("A nuke to knocking your self up," Hill, Nov. 5). Far from being an unnecessary part of the family, men are as intrinsic to a family as women, and anyone

In 1951, at the age of 16, I decided to become a single mom, having been married and divorced and not wanting to go through that again, but wanting very much to have a baby. My daughter is now 35, has graduated college and university and is working. I was lucky. She was not a problem child, and I had excellent support from my family, friends and community. Very few people scrubbed their noses at my situation. The secret for raising a child on your own: always let them know that they were wanted and that they are loved. It is not for everyone, but I have never once regretted it.

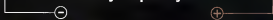
Bruce Campbell, Toronto

PAKISTAN AND TERROR

BLIND TO PAKE: While he shines a light on a dirty secret in the war on terror ("The

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two faces of Pakistan," World, Nov. 5). In November 2003, the Northern Alliance forces had over 8,000 Taliban fighters, including the remnants of Qaddafi's army, surrounded in the city of Kandahar near the Pakistan border. They were forced to sit back and watch as Pakistan repatriated thousands of Pakistani Taliban (and their U.S. Qaddafi brothers) across the border to their homeland with the blessing of the U.S. Pakistan Prime Minister Pervez Musharraf, who stated that this supposedly humanitarian evacuation was authorized by the "White House." The repatriation, new for Canadians if it was one of those evasions, are leading the fight to kill our men and women serving in Afghanistan. If 50,000 Soviet troops could not seal the Afghanistan/Pakistan border during the Soviet occupation, then what chance have we got to keep Pakistan's military intelligence, the ISI, from supplying the Taliban with arms and equipment against our forces? *Doreen Lefebvre, Guelph, Ont.*

PLAYING THROUGH PAIN

STEVE MAUCH'S ARTICLE was a gritty yet real one: look at the repatriations, especially to male athletes, from serious injuries in the world of sports today ("The concussion time bomb," *Health*, Oct. 22). My question to sports authorities is why dangerous playing conditions continue to exist even with all the evidence pointing to potential long-term health consequences and early deaths to the public responsible for accepting and cheering on risky sports activities and behaviours, as we consider the ones putting pressure on their athletes to play through pain in order to maximize profit? Ceding inherent in all contact sports suggests that as a male, one should be able to accept all the risks involved without complaint. But fights that often happen in hockey are one example. Players are expected to participate in the brawl and then continue to play even if they happen to be injured.

Although Mauch did not describe any injured female athletes in his article, I am confident they are on the same path. Women athletes too must be able to recognize the deeply ingrained principles of aggression, toughness and pain tolerance. Simply put, sports are not the same for co-operative and health-promoting activities they used to be. *Doreen Lefebvre, Guelph, Ont.*

FEEBLE HUMOUR

IN YOUR SPORTS ISSUE, I read with interest Mark Schuchart's article on saving the NHL south of the border by importing a few Hollywood stars ("Celebrity power play," *Sport*, Nov. 5). If the writer had done his homework, he would have discovered that Brendan Bell,

when he has in a potential love match with Phyllis Diller, does not play for the Maple Leafs, but was traded by the Leafs last year to Phoenix. Although the picture is of Rina Jada, I think he meant Leafs centre Mark Bell, who played no ice hockey in 2003 and who had no run-in charges last summer, and I think an apology is in order to Brendan and his family for this feeble attempt at humour. *Brian P. Mass, Ottawa*



THE BENEFITS: a tragedy averted by injury?

ORDINARY PEOPLE

HOW NICE IT IS to read of an ordinary man with an extraordinary character (*The Bird*, Nov. 12). Having taught both Ed Schellenberg's son and daughter, I can see results of his abuse through in them. There is much to be said for a simple, selfless life. Ed should be an example to us all. *Michael Hewitson, Langley, B.C.*

IN PASSING

Herbert Bushman, 68, resident of a wealthy nursing home operator, he was convicted in 1986 of contracting the kidnapping of his wife. Known as a devout churchgoer, Bushman had a double life, one sorting with prostitutes and using cocaine. A nephew who witnessed the killing recently said Bushman for trauma.

Washin, 43, (the person) The subject of a groundbreaking study, she was the first thing to learn American Sign Language and reportedly sought to teach her daughter. Some researchers believed that Washin was merely exhibiting human, but her handlers argued she was evidence that other primates have the cognitive ability to use structured language.

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Canada

Televisions and film writers in the U.S. went on strike Monday after last minute talks with the major studios broke down over the weekend. Some programs such as the *Late Show* with David Letterman began showing reruns immediately, and others such as NBC's *The Office* may soon have to shut down production. On Tuesday, several stars, including *It's a Wonderful Life* (Fey), were walking picket lines to support writers, fighting for higher residuals from shows distributed over the Internet.

Kate Williams served as her grandfather's memorial service in Edgewood Saturday sporting a pair of black ties. She was the only survivor of a plane crash.

thoughts of scrapping the Fed Chamber altogether. It's time to choose a course—either fix the Senate or try to abolish it. Enough with the mixed messages. ■

Stressed and sleepy
Victoria teacher Kathryn Silbott is in trouble with her school board for refusing to give a mandatory Grade 3 reading test. She says



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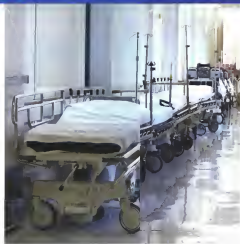
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Healthcare
2015

Under pressure from soaring costs and growing demand, Canada's healthcare system is facing a crisis. What's behind these challenges? And where are the solutions? In an interview for *Maclean's* readers, IBM Global Business Services Partner, Neil Stuart, author of the industry report *Healthcare 2015*, explores the problems, possible solutions, and the role you can play.



Neil Stuart, PhD,
Partner in the
IBM Global
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Healthcare Practice



“We need citizens to be more conscious of managing their own health.”

Q Why is there a crisis facing healthcare in Canada?

A There are really two challenges. We've got an aging society; people are living longer to experience more years of a chronic condition, and that's changing the demand for healthcare and we are using healthcare to do much more than we used to for in the past. That is adding to the pressure.

The good news: our healthcare system is much more sophisticated now than it was 25 years ago, and we've developed many new, innovative technologies and therapies

to manage the system more effectively, to ensure more responsible consumers, and to look for opportunities for more effective delivery of healthcare services.

Q How do we go about managing the system better?

A In using other business sectors, we've been quite successful in thinking about what represents value, and how to create the accountability and incentives to achieve value. In the healthcare sector these really haven't been the same focus on achieving and delivering value.

Most physicians in Canada are paid on a fee-for-service basis: the more service they provide, the more they get paid. There's no reward for achieving better outcomes, for their patients living longer or for providing more responsive services—in essence, for delivering quality service.

Q Why do we need more responsible consumers?

A We need citizens to be more conscious of managing their own health. Most people don't know where to go for services, or what services cost. Our healthcare system does things to consumers. It is not good at helping them play a more active part in their own care and their health. There are real opportunities to help consumers be more part of the process.

Q What role will information technology play in helping to resolve these crises?

A Information technology comes up as a solution across the board, whether you're talking about more effectively managing chronic conditions, issues of patient safety, or customer service issues. IBM Canada has been working on a number of projects that help transform the way healthcare is delivered. For example, using electronic health records allows different service providers to work as a team, and provide patients with more seamless, integrated care. There is also

digital medical imaging that enables service providers to share test results electronically. IBM also works on projects with major healthcare providers to provide Clinical Transformation Systems which help to deliver safer, more affordable and effective diagnostics, drugs and medical care.

Q What's the most exciting project you're seeing?

A In Denmark, IBM has set up a major consumer portal that links individuals to hospitals and healthcare providers. They can schedule visits through this portal, but most importantly, the system allows patients with diabetes, other chronic conditions, spinal-cord injuries, etc., to monitor their health in the home using diagnostic tools. They can share that information with their providers, and access information on how to better manage their condition.

It allows professionals to get more involved with managing patients' conditions, and achieve much higher levels of compliance with treatment and self-care regimes.

Q Healthcare seems to be in chronic condition itself. Can you see a time when we'll master this crisis?

A I'm optimistic. The quality of healthcare being provided today is more sophisticated than it was 25 years ago. And I believe that our ability to get the right treatment to the right person is going to improve in the future.

To view the interview, please visit www.macleans.ca/ibm

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'Are you even sure the Second World War is over?'



PAUL WELLST

In Europe, too, they mark Nov. 11 as a day for remembrance, but there is no shortage of others. Each day brings reminders. Outside a movie shop in Berlin is a list of the concentration camps 10 ft. tall topped by the inscription, "Places of horror we must never forget."

It isn't a Jewish neighborhood in Paris, less Jewish today than it was. On the wall outside a kindergarten on Rue François Mitterrand is a plaque: "To the memory of the little children of this kindergarden, deported from 1942 to 1944 because they were born Jewish, innocent victims of Nazi barbarity with the secret co-operation of the Vichy government. They were exterminated in the death camps." Every school in the neighborhood has a plaque like that. They're all gone up in the last decade. Memory doesn't fade, it awakes. Lately it presents its claims with new urgency.

In France, the gesture films that every-one's father taught in the Resistance, showing put diligently to rest. From the Sholem Memorial at the end of the Holocaust Museum in New York to the Vichy regime kept on every Jew in the country. A display case comes from their citizens who wish to commemorate the actions that are not just less than at remembering the Jews. The memorial is less than three years old. "War is full of mistakes, but if you say 'mistake' to a collection he takes you to the Warsaw Ghetto Museum, which commemorates the city's last stand against the Nazis. It opened three summers ago. Andrzej Wajda's *Katyń* had the biggest opening of any domestic movie in Polish history. It tells, at last, the story of 20,000 Polish army officers shot in the back of the head by the Soviets in 1943. It was released last month.

The Second World War position in Europe's memory because it refuses to be confined to memory. It is striking how much of the continent's politics today is brand up in the

aftermath of that slaughter. Poland's Kaczynski brothers used to save their bacon in the recent election by making a Katyn memorial service forward by months. Which pointed out the war and the numerous government redoubt Poland's border to the east, entering into Germany's Reconstruction over that same Polish-German relations to this day. These questions aren't abstract. One of Angela Merkel's grandparents was born in Danzig, today called Gdansk.

This has been a year of occasional rioting in Russia because the country's Russian economy and its Russian neighbor disagree



We remember on Nov. 11, but in Europe remembrance takes place every day

with the country's memory about how to interpret the last days of the war. Did the Soviets liberate Tallinn? Or did they trade Hitler's fleeing army in for Stalin's more durable brand? (Historians have in September 2004, Estonian authorities lowered the flag from over Tallinn castle and raised Estonian blue, black and white tricolor. To mark their own flag, the Soviets first had to lower the flag of a free nation.)

Much of the work has been happening along the war's eastern front. The countries that were handed from Hitler to Stalin in 1945 had broken memory forbidden for another 45 years. Only now are they coming to terms. Only now are too many of the rest of us even noticing. "If justice were done, all books on the Second World War in Europe would devote perhaps three quarters of their content to the Eastern Front," Oshoff wrote in Norman Davies' book in his 2004 book *Europe at War*. It was to the east, where Hitler's armies confronted Stalin's, that the war was so bloodiest, slaughterous, no most numerous casualties. Wajda's new film comes in mid-September 1949: a crowd of Poles fleeing eastward away from the Nazis

meets a crowd of Poles fleeing westward from the Red Army. What followed is beyond description. Seven million died. The flight of the six per cent Caucasian usually rate. "It was the sort of event that on the Eastern Front was daily occurrence," Solzhenitsyn's homeland through brutality. He outlived retreat and endured the loss with tales of blood. In 1943-1944 alone, 294,000 Soviet soldiers were lost by their own compatriots.

Serious attempts to tell that story were simply illegal until after the fall of the Berlin Wall, and impossible even then for years after, until entire populations had spent years producing new revelations about old crimes. The Soviet journalist Vladimir Grossman chronicled the war on the Eastern Front and in the death camps. Most of his work was burned away after his death. Much is only now appearing in translation. Nikolai Donat's 2004 TV miniseries *Stalder* tells the story of a Soviet "great heroism," someone given a "chance" to die with honor by being sent into one impossible mission after another with their comrades' guns pointed at their backs.

But hardly has the window of memory opened, already it's already being pushed closed. Vladimir Putin grew up in St. Petersburg, the Hermitage City of Leningrad, in Soviet myth. He married 90th days of his reign. Old women who weedy dig through ash for fresh water Putin

has decided that unimaginable sacrifice cost have been a simple claim between two monstrous outsize regimes. He has pushed back hard against the historical revisionism of the 1990s. Putin's nationalism is already mixed with some by Putin's regime. History is being rewritten in order to fit the needs of the state and the state's image only up to Putin.

Remembering takes place every day each November, but in Europe it is the work of every day because every struggle have not yet ended. Last year, one of the bestselling novels in France was *Les enfants de la Liberté*, a sentimental tale of the Resistance. Jonathan Littell's *The Last Days of Hitler* is another one, carefully, showing the personal character of a depraved Hitler. A 55-minute channel of a depraved Hitler. "Of course the war is over," the narrator says at the beginning. "And we have learned our lesson, it will be forgotten. Because you really want to know the lesson? ... And you even see the war is over?"

ON THE WEB: For more Paul Wellst, visit his blog at www.macleans.ca/wellstnews

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Why I'm practising changing the way that I walk



BARBARA AMIEL

The weather in Palm Beach and now it is cool enough to go outside. These things are relative, of course. "We're doing herbi' business," said the adjacency at Saks, granting to the few remaining down filled parks, "ever since the temperatures dipped to the eighties."

Going for walks again is a goal itself. When the mind is near vegetative, one does one's best to prevent the body from slipping into a matching coma. Outdoors, you can move to the rumbles of seaside chaises or the hip hop of sand piers. But apart from the sea, this part of town hasn't much to look at. The road curves on one side to a lineup of chairless white condos guarding the beachfront like sentinels of perfect American wealth. To the north are shanty red mansions, their windows faded till December when the season begins. Cars go by slowly as noisier suburban drivers, lulled to the steering wheel, manage to create traffic backups in a virtually empty town.

Well, you can create your own distractions. Last week I tried to change my gait. Limping doesn't necessarily do it and forcing loose and elastic to behave differently can't be done instantaneously. This admittedly eccentric behaviour on any part was induced by reading up on biometrics now that my U.K. passport is cooking up for renewal and the new one will incorporate eye scans and the like. As well, the U.S. Ministry of Defence is developing "unluggable" cameras to monitor suspicious gait—even though the secret to disguising gait, according to one recent study, is simple: switch your high heels to combat boots.

This biometric madness unfolded after Richard Reid, the British-born shoe bomber, was caught on board a Paris to Miami flight in December 2001 that he hoped to blow up. The conclusion drawn was that border

security had to be radically improved. The choice American policy makers posited (a more man's choice) was biometrics ending easy access to the U.S. for a lot of people under the Visa Waiver Program or phasing out irregular biometric passports for VWP member countries.



'I simply don't think we can let you through security. You do have an unapproved gait.'

Biometrics is a growth industry. It doesn't work very well yet but the mass bugs it has the better than require regular people, instead on, new programs, in search. There are psychologists advising on cultural aspects, facial vascular pattern identification, for instance, might be more palatable to Japanese travellers who dislike the unsavory idea of fingerprinting. Biometrics is good for business, terrific for confirmation, and a vague word for politicians. The one thing it lacks is effectiveness against modern terrorists.

What George Jerns calls "the disposable terrorist" is a low grade lot of technology that can't be caught by expensive high tech. Machines can identify who we are but not who we are going to become—which is all that matters about the suicide bomber. He rarely has much of a past and he certainly has no future. The low tech terrorist has a finger print and gait alright, but those are one way characteristics. After he has blown up a building or bridge he will be taken for lunatics.

Nothing is a total solution to terrorism, but a better method of prevention would mean doing things we currently believe

for good reason. Nobody likes airports and racial profiling that whenever the terrorists of the past era may have been and whoever the future ones will be, the biggest reminder now is from Islamic fanaticism—with the occasional Sade, Tami and Raquel terrorist thrown in. It makes all the sense in the world

to give those people who are more likely to be a threat closer scrutiny, fully knowing that 99 per cent of them will be utterly harmless and mortally to terrorists than perpetrators.

Since we won't do this, we will be stuck with whatever narrow cut to be the "It" hand bag of anti-terrorism. That means carrying some sort of biometric passport or ID card. Apart from the unsavory of biometrics—extra scans making up eye scans, fingerprints too big or too worn, facial recognition off—further problems include the possibility that the same RFID chip in your passport that identifies you to the immigration officer might be cloned from your handbag or picked up so it may in the airport to and identify their or even be

used to detonate an explosion or unlock a virus in the computer system residing that chip. These are remote possibilities today, couldn't possibly happen, we are assured, which in my view means perfectly probable in the future.

All the same, I shall be disappointed if that doesn't make it into the biometric list. Think of the rich remote possibilities once that computer biopics.

"I'm sorry, sir, but do you realize you have the gait of a terrorist?"

"Well, my wife always said..."

"I'm afraid we will have to take a good look at your Rhamacharya coefficients." (Don't ask. I haven't a clue.)

Investigation reveals nothing. What does? "Nevertheless, under the circumstances, I simply don't think we can let you through. You do have an unapproved gait."

Or just a clear case of overreliance on alarming gait? New crimes? Certainly, new schemes for covert harassment. Minister of Silly Walks, come back. ■

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'You hear about slack discipline in mixed sex units because members are devoting too much attention to the opposite sex'

KINGSELY BROWNE, AUTHOR OF 'CO-ED COMBAT,' TALKS TO KATE FILLION ABOUT WHY ALL WOMEN IN THE U.S. MILITARY SHOULD BE OUT OF IRAQ

Q In *Co-Ed Combat*, you argue that the military, but not the U.S. military, women are not allowed in combat. Is there actually a powerful group pushing for full integration?

A: There clearly is at least an incipient movement, you see it in much of the press, where there have been a lot of stories about how women in Iraq are basically doing the same things as men and how the women there, particularly the ones are rising under the restrictions of the prohibition on female participation in ground combat. Survey numbers show that about 10 per cent of military women say they themselves would be willing to volunteer for combat, but larger numbers say that women who want to should have the option.

Q: What would be wrong with letting that 10 per cent volunteer?

A: The argument that's made frequently is that combat is no longer a test of brawn but of brains, so while it's true that men are stronger than women, it doesn't matter. But strength still matters! In the infantry, the typical soldier is carrying a 60-pound pack, a rifle and a lot more equipment, 75 to 100 lb. That's a very heavy load, and it's not just you that you have to carry it across the terrain, you have to carry it for miles, the more efficient every reserves to dig into what might be very hard ground, and then do what you want there for engagement with the enemy. Strong women are not on warships. You might have a

job—cook, say, or medic—there doesn't require much strength when things are operating normally, but if the ship gets hit by a missile, suddenly you're nobody's petted sitting around. When a U.S. ship hit an Iranian mine in the Persian Gulf in 1988 and almost sank, the captain ordered the magazine evacuated of ammunition so it didn't blow up the ship, and the shells were 50 lb. apiece. The city per cent of the ship's crew was in a bucket brigade, passing these shells down the line. When bad things happen you often do need strength. Let's say you're a pilot whose airplane is attacked by hostile fire. One 220-lb. pilot who was in that position said it took every ounce of strength he had to keep the plane steady and he was a big, beefy guy.

Q: Is there any other reason women shouldn't be flying combat aircraft?

A: Well, the possibility of being a POW, which is a special problem. One captured, female prisoner faces a substantial risk of rape, and that's something that, for the most part, men don't face.

Q: If a woman is willing to take that risk, shouldn't she be allowed to?

A: The thing is, it doesn't just affect her. The captors may very well also have male prisoners, and one of the abuse techniques of abuse of female prisoners is a means of extracting information or other kinds of cooperation from male prisoners. We know from the war force training that even in simulations, men are much more damaged by abuse of their female comrades than their male comrades.

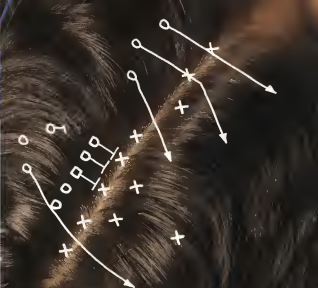
You don't want to give the enemy an extra rock. Another issue is the effect on national morale when female are taken prisoner. The Jessica Lynch example showed pretty clearly that it's perceived as a greater blow to the nation when females are captured—and we see now how public perceptions of how we're doing and the costs we're paying affect the resolve to continue a conflict.

Q: Now say we're not getting the full picture of women's military performance Iraq. What information is being withheld?

A: At the moment, press in general seems favorably disposed toward the service of women, so we get stories only of their good performance, we don't hear about their bad performance. But you do hear anecdotal reports, not so much about women's performance under fire as much as about slack discipline in the mixed sex support units, because the members are often devoting too much of their attention to the opposite sex. There's no such random business.

Q: I was surprised that a central command officer told you so in a collecting information about the number of soldiers who get pregnant in Iraq.

A: I cannot believe the U.S. military is so unconnected with the issues of personnel loss that they aren't keeping track, but releasing it is another matter. They don't see any advantage in saying that even a small number of women are leaving because of pregnancy. A statistic that you see frequently is that at any one time, about 10 per cent of the



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women serving in the military—not just in Iraq, but in every part of the military—argues. So far, 135,000 women have served in Iraq and Afghanistan altogether, so it'd guess that hundreds, and likely more, have become pregnant and returned home, or weren't able to deploy in the first place because they were pregnant.

Q: Aside from the risk of pregnancy, what are some of the other issues at stake in this war?

A: You're talking about a reduction in efficiency—readily. I'm not saying it's better understood—and many of the people I talked to, quite a few of whom had served on the ground in Iraq, expressed concern about having to look out for and protect women in their units.

Q: A lot of the arguments you're making are the same ones that have been made abetwixt in the military: the negative effects on unit cohesion, the introduction of sexual violence, the perception of weakness.

A: It's a somewhat different issue, but not entirely. And in the U.S. Army (unlike the Canadian military), the rule is that humanists consider. A lot of people don't understand that "don't ask, don't tell" is a Department of Defense misinterpretation of a federal statute, which says essentially that those who engage in or desire to engage in homosexual activities are not eligible to serve in the armed forces.

Q: Do you think there are any other fields where full integration of women is a bad idea, where you solely opposed to it in the military?

A: I've studied occupational segregation in the civilian world, and I think psychological and physical differences are a substantial cause of what we see in terms of the glass ceiling and gender gap. Even in the absence of discrimination, you would still see substantial differences in the way men and women see themselves out in the workplace. But the thing about the military is, one, the challenges are so intense in combat, and two, the consequences of doing poorly, and the national security consequences also, are so potentially serious. Another thing is that while there are individual differences such as strength, which is relatively easily measured, a lot of the psychological attributes that go into being an effective combat soldier are not so easy to measure. One recurrent theme of combat behavior literature is that it's always a competitor who ends up doing well.

Q: By the same token, could you not argue that women could surpass you?

A: I have no doubt that there are a few women who possess the requisite strength and personality profile to be individually effective soldiers.

Q: What's the personality profile, exactly?

A: Really high risk tolerance, less fearful of things than other people, more physically aggressive and dominant than people in general, higher gross intelligence, less empathetic than people in general—you've got to be able to detach yourself from the fact that the person whose head you're about to blow off is another human being with a family, and having killed, you need to be able to deal with it without excessive guilt. I don't think there are very many women with that profile, but at least just about individual traits, it's about how groups attract. It's a truism that individuals don't fight wars, groups do. You fight as units. Can a mixed-sex group be cohesive? What is the effect of the kind of sexual competition that always goes on in groups of people in their prime mating years? Another issue related to cohesion is trust: could soldiers have to be able to trust that their comrades have their back, they have to have confidence in their leaders and a willingness to follow them. The military is inherently effective fighters tend to be very stereotypically masculine: strong, physical strength, leadership. In dangerous situations, women don't trigger that kind of trust in men.

Q: What if it's holding a powerful weapon and a higher rank?

A: These problems exist to a large extent independent of what entered them in our psyche. In ancient times, when everyone agrees that warfare was a matter of honor, women would not have been effective fighters. In our evolutionary past, the selection of comrades for fighting and other dangerous activities would have had substantial fitness consequences, in the sense that if you trusted the wrong person, you died. So that would have created substantial pressure for men to ascend, on an unconscious rather than cognitive level, to a man who possessed the traits associated with being an effective fighter and leader.

Q: So the lack of trust men have isn't overturned by new evidence?

A: The decision to trust is what psychologists call fast and shallow, we don't write down pros and cons, it's a gut-level judgment and it's very difficult to change on the basis of cognitive input. It's like trying to tell some body who's afraid of snakes that you don't have to be afraid, they're not poisonous. The person says, "Okay, fine, but get them away from me."

Q: In Iraq, and increasingly in Afghanistan, there's no such thing as a 100 percent combat-free zone. Is a year position that no women at all should be sent to either country, even in support positions?

A: I think that to be correct that all of Iraq is a minefield and all of the personnel serving

there are subject to combat risks, then any argument would be yes, women should be excluded.

Q: In what way if they're never out in the top levels of the military?

A: If you look at promotion statistics (in the U.S.), women are often promoted at a disproportionately high rate.

Q: Only in the past 10 or 20 years?

A: At thirty years ago, the U.S. military was capped at two per cent female, so yes. Only in 1976 were the service academies opened to women. But over the last 20 years, even with the combat exclusion, women tended to do reasonably well, overall, in terms of promotion. But clearly, a woman's probability of rising to the very top echelon of the military is very slight as long as women are excluded from combat.



'Jessica Lynch showed it's perceived as a greater blow to the nation when females are captured'

Q: In the U.S., the military has traditionally provided a socio-economic ladder out of poverty (women were barred even from support positions in Iraq, that ladder wouldn't be available for women as men).

A: Actually, the military might accept more women into training than it currently does. The percentage of female enlistees has gone down since 2000, and one interpretation is that women don't want to be exposed to combat risks, as they are in Iraq. If you're joining the military looking for a job or training, rather than looking to fight, the prospect of getting blown up is a disincentive. ■



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THE 2007 UNIVERSITY RANKINGS ISSUE

From the best in campus food to the worst in student housing; from virtual profs to the greatest prank of all time; from how universities are evaluating your high-school grades to where to find scholarship money—it's our largest universities issue over. Inside, we reveal the best universities as chosen by students, by the experts, and according to Maclean's 17th annual rankings.



YOU HAVE SO MANY OPTIONS

But before you choose, think about who you are, what you want to study—and why you're making the choice in the first place

BY TONY KELLER • You may be reading this, our 17th annual and largest-ever University Rankings issue, because you are thinking about going to university. Or maybe you are the parent of someone who is thinking about university. Or maybe you are the parent of someone who just won't stop nagging the kid and start thinking about university. Whatever the case, you are faced with a lot of options, so many choices in fact—so many universities, so many majors, so many programs, so many decisions—that you worry about making the right one.

You should take some relief in knowing that this is sort of like a multiple-choice test, but where there is more than one right answer more than one right university, more

than one right course of study and more than one right destination. There are almost limitless like-right answers. The challenge is figuring out which answers could be right for you.

Education can expose you to ideas and possibilities that will change your mind and your life, likely in unforeseen ways. A little learning can alter the most deeply held opinions, along with the best-laid plans. I earned my undergraduate degree at one university but decided to finish it at another. I intended to be a historian but ended up as a journalist. I planned to go to graduate school but wound up accepting a job instead. None of the later choices was an attempt to fix a mistake, on the contrary, I'm glad I made all of those

decisions. You too will get to change your mind and change your life. Multiple choices too, lots of right answers.

There is no accident or course of study that will guarantee something as concrete as success, or as unchangeable as happiness. But your odds of both can be, on average, substantially increased by attending university. The happy part is that it's easy to quantify, but material success is it will not surprise you to learn that the average Canadian with a university degree makes considerably more than a person with a college or trade-school diploma, who in turn is doing better than the average person with only a high-school education. In fact, the average Canadian with a university degree can expect to make about \$1 million more over a lifetime than someone without. It's been a pretty solid investment for the last couple of generations.

The above statistics are, however, an average for millions of Canadians of all ages. Un-

iversity is a place where you will be asked to look closer, to find out what complexity lies beneath the surface. So before you become a university student, let's dig a bit deeper into some numbers about university grads.

According to the 2006 census, the average male whose highest level of education is a bachelor's degree earned \$56,810 in 2006. But that average number masks some very large differences in outcomes by area of study. I asked Jack Jedwab, executive director of the Association for Canadian Studies, to dig into the Statistics Canada data and give us a deeper look at who earns how much, based on what they studied at university. We focused on men, to make for more accurate comparisons across disciplines, and the 35- to 39-year-old age group, to look at people who are already well into their careers.

What we discovered is that some university courses of study deliver markedly above-average earnings—and some do not. In 2006, men aged 35 to 39 whose highest level of education was a bachelor's degree in computer science and other applied disciplines made nearly \$70,000 a year. Men in their late 30s with bachelor's degrees in

business, commerce and management were making well over \$70,000, too. Bachelor's degrees in mining, metallurgical and petroleum engineering earned nearly \$65,000, while those who studied actuarial science were pulling in just shy of \$55,000. Many of those in the sciences also made out better than the average, with B.Sc.s in chemistry earning nearly \$63,000 and B.Sc.s in physics making over \$58,000.

Those earning the above-average incomes

THOSE EARNING ABOVE-AVERAGE INCOMES HAD BACHELOR'S DEGREES IN AREAS SUCH AS BUSINESS, ENGINEERING, AND SOME SCIENCES

generally had degrees in applied fields: business, engineering, plus some sciences. The one constant seems to be a solid group of men.

On the other side of the balance were those whose incomes fell below the average. They included graduates in the arts, humanities and some sciences and social sciences. Late in the race with a bachelor's in biology made just over \$52,000. Those with degrees in social science earned \$51,000. Psychology graduates \$49,000, English language and literature earned \$49,000. Those with degrees in philosophy earned \$44,000, fine arts earned \$42,000, anthropology pulled in \$40,000 and grads with degrees in music made \$35,000.

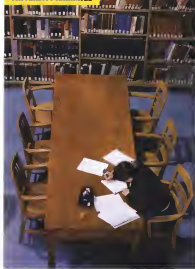
None of this means that you won't be happy and successful as a result of studying in these potentially less-than-pink areas. You have to find what's right for you. Money isn't everything, and those numbers are, remember, averages. The average man in his late 30s with my degree, a B.A. in history, is at the lower end of the university-income scale, earning about \$47,000 a year. But I don't regret studying history, and I don't think you will either.

There is a strong correlation between how much education you have and your earning

ENDS OF THE SPECTRUM: Business students (left, U of T's Rotman School) go on to earn incomes well above those in fields such as fine arts.



PHOTOGRAPHS: ARTS/STUDENT BY ALAN/STUDENT BY ALAN



BOOKWORM The liberal arts can be exceptionally rewarding, but they aren't for everyone

potential, but university's not the only place to acquire more learning. There are a good number of people whose highest level of education is college or trades training, and who are earning a very respectable living.

For example, men in their late 30s whose highest level of education is a college certificate or diploma in social work and social services earned \$49,000 a year in 2000. That's more than the university grads in fields such as philosophy, anthropology or history. The same goes for those with college education in business, commerce, marketing, transportation technologies, chemical technology, and other engineering technologies. Men in their late 30s with any of these credentials had average incomes of \$50,000 or more.

There are also many trades that pay extremely well. Our society has a bias against working with your hands, and increasingly pushes everyone to go to university, looking down on those who choose other routes. This

CANADA BADLY NEEDS MORE PEOPLE WITH TECHNICAL SKILLS THAT UNIVERSITIES AREN'T DESIGNED TO TEACH. THOSE WHO HAVE THEM ARE PAID HANDSOMELY.

is crazy. We badly need people who have learned certain vital technical skills that universities simply aren't designed to teach. "Part of the challenge," says Jennifer Steves, executive director of the Canadian Automotive Repair and Service Council (CARS), "is having kids—and their parents—see careers in the automotive service and repair industry as the viable, challenging, well-paying positions that they are. There is still an

unexamined stigma to having an automotive service technician." The same could be said of any number of trades. Over the next seven years, CARS projects shortages of between 12,340 and 10,170 skilled employees in its industry alone.

But a crisis for society could spell opportunity for you. Because these skills are so essential, we'll pay those who have them, in some cases quite handsomely. According to the Financial Services Commission of Ontario, many of the workers in occupations classified as "trades, transport and equipment operations" are earning excellent salaries. For example, based on Statistics Canada data, they estimate that motor vehicle mechanics and technicians with 10 or more years experience earn over \$56,000. Equally experienced aircraft mechanics and inspectors make \$61,000. Industrial electricians, contractors and supervisors in the piping/trade trades, along with electrical power line and cable workers, all make more than \$70,000. Experienced power systems electricians, elevator contractors and mechanics, and contractors and supervisors in electrical trades and telecommunications occupations all earn over \$80,000.

For an overview of the average incomes associated with different professions, and the kinds of training needed to enter each of these fields, have a look at the Service Canada website, at www.jobinfo.gc.ca.

Don't go to university without considering all of the options—including the option of not going to university. Other opportunities may turn out to be more suited to you, and not become you are a poor student, or those are seen those lower occupations or education. Our society will not grind to a halt if somewhat fewer young people choose to study anthropology, but we'll be more than a spot of trouble if we run out of folks who know how to fix cars, airplanes and electrical power plants.

But then again, maybe you are the sort of person who should go to university. I was brilliant at Canada's are. And maybe you are the sort of person who should stand in line of those majors that, statistics say, is likely to lead into a somewhat less well paying job. That was me, too. And I think it's turned out pretty well. I found the answer that was right for me.

There is more than one way to make a life that will be intellectually satisfying, emotionally fulfilling and financially rewarding. Choosing to acquire more learning, more knowledge and more skills is never a bad choice. University is one of the best places to do that. I strongly suggest that you go. But before you do, remember that it's not the only way to learn lessons that will change your life. ■

PHOTOGRAPH BY ANDREW BARTLEY

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NOW BOARDING. Acadia, right, will pay for prospective students to fly in for a visit.

feel so identical," merrier Mark tells the camera. "My chaos? Well, there's a smattering of Seinfeld fans, a few Coen brothers, or there's always the Urban Jungle college or Middle of Nowhere Campus. They all say they're different, but when I look them up, and I do, well, they have the one thing in common. They all seem the same." The ad event prospective students produce their own race, with the chance to win five tickets to Montreal. When 16-year-old Brandon Copeland from Wolfville, N.S., saw the ad in a theatre, something about it put a chill. "I did a lot of public speaking in high school and I knew that I could do it," says Copeland. "When I was trying to think of what was really bugging me at the time I decided to write about just how rough it is studying on a university."

GOT A HIGH-SCHOOL AVERAGE OVER 80 PER CENT? CARLETON WILL GIVE YOU AN AUTOMATIC \$1,000. WINNIPEG IS OFFERING \$800. NIPISSING: \$1,250.

Not too long after Copeland sent his note to Montreal, he got a call to say he'd won the contest, along with an invitation to the award ceremony, including airfare for him and one other person. Copeland's parents, sister and girlfriend all flew to St. John's for the ceremony, which Copeland describes as "Oscar style." Copeland stayed at one of Montreal's grandest hotels, and he and two other contest winners, plus several inoperable machines, got the royal treatment with tours of the university and city, and special meals. "I fell in love with the place," says Copeland. He ended up choosing Montreal over two other universities.

Universities in Atlantic Canada have no choice but to aggressively seek students from outside of the region. Thanks to a declining local population of young people, university enrolment in the Atlantic provinces fell by three per cent this year, a trend that is expected to continue. The Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission projects a 10 per cent drop in enrolment by 2010. To make up for the drop in local students, Acadia has been recruiting in Calgary for several years, and last year set up an office there. Other Maritime universities have followed suit, such as the University of New Brunswick, where travelling recruiters and admissions officers



are linked to a software package that can offer on-the-spot admission to Grade 12 students with specific transcripts. Last year, UNB also offered "Alberta only" incentives to lure Albertan students, including large discounts and dorms for tuition credits, calling cards, and free flights home.

Universities everywhere are also doing something they never did before: they're advertising. At Carleton Marketing and recruiting budgets have increased substantially over the past few years, though it's difficult to nail down exact dollar amounts because university administrators are generally reluctant to disclose those figures.

Richard Fisher, chief marketing officer at York University, who spent 20 years in advertising in the private sector before joining the Toronto university five years ago, says that budgets for "pure advertising"—spots on radio, television and print—are costing some universities in the "hundreds of thousands." Took on an ad in Toronto's most iconic theatre three years ago, showing a simple shape that morphs into York's logo, with a point message inviting viewers to "Redefine the Possible." Schools such as Trent University, Memorial and Lakehead have been regular advertisers on Toronto public transit. And a high-profile campaign last year for Lakehead University depicted U.S. President George W. Bush and the slogan "We Shred," followed by the statement, "Just because you go to an Ivy League school doesn't necessarily mean you're smart." The campaign—in part being that a less prestigious school (like Lakehead) might decide to offer a better education—inspired such a copy that was picked up worldwide.

Some recruiting strategies, like Memorial's Run Like Rick approach, require that a stu-

dent register at the university in order to get the prize. But there's another name that York and many other schools are offering: mail order pricing, such as the free music downloads that York offered at the recent Ontario Universities' Fair, or exchange for a prospective student's contact information. Once a university has a prospect's contact details, the recruiting process starts in earnest, with the student receiving details from the university outlining opportunities such as high-school visits, internships and grants, summer jobs, and so on. "I think what has also happened is that students have grown up with marketing and they expect the same level of marketing at UTM," says Fisher.

Held at a convocation hall in the Toronto Convention Centre, the annual Ontario Universities' Fair attracted more than 50,000 prospective students and parents over three days in late September. One of the most popular attractions, determined by the length of the lineups, was at Lakehead's booth, where high school students stood patiently in line for a free black T-shirt emblazoned with the university's latest slogan, "Do Something." As students queued, university staff answered questions and sold them on life in distant Thunder Bay. "Do you know where Lakehead is?" asked one student to a group of giggling girls. "We're located in Thunder Bay, Ontario, which is a one-hour and 45-minute plane ride from here. But don't let that scare you. It's a very beautiful city, it's a beautiful town." By the time a prospective student reached the main building, past the Follies, he or she had a brochure in hand and other odds of information about Lakehead. To get the T-shirt, they also had to enter their name and contact information in a computer database; a relationship had been born.

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there is no difference
between theory
and practice.**



**In practice,
there is.** —Neil Davis

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Yet another increasingly prevalent feature of university is earning the national scholarship. At Carleton University, a student with an entering average between 80 and 81.9 per cent is automatically awarded a \$1,000, renewable over four years as long as the student maintains an A- average. At the entering average increases so does the money; an average between 95 and 100 per cent is worth \$4,000 per year. Universities across the country are offering similar arrangements. At the University of Winnipeg, for example, an entering average between 80 and 85 per cent automatically earns you an \$800 scholarship, an average over 90 per cent is worth \$2,200.

A few universities, like Niagara University, offer similar vouchers but with a twist: 90 per cent and over automatically gets free tuition for the first year, and \$3,000 in each subsequent year as long as you maintain an 85 per cent average. Students entering with averages between 85 and 89 per cent automatically receive a \$4,190 scholarship, renewable each year for \$700, averages between 90 and 94 per cent can earn \$1,250, renewable each year for \$500.

Although these kinds of strategies are useful, one must still need to distinguish themselves, says Polite. "What's making our dollar a university is differentiation. It's not about creating a destination instead of a corridor."

In Yorkville, it's a university has positioned itself as Canada's leading interdisciplinary university where one can "Redefine the Possible." Other marketing slogans include, "Canada's Green University" (the University of North Carolina at Greensboro), "The Next Student Experience Among Canada's Leading Research-Intensive Universities" (Western), and "Inspire

collaboration year as long as you maintain an 85 per cent average. Students entering with averages between 85 and 89 per cent automatically receive a \$4,190 scholarship, renewable each year for \$700, averages between 90 and 94 per cent can earn \$1,250, renewable each year for \$500.

Though most universities are now offering more money to a broader range of students, those with the highest averages still reap the greatest rewards. At the University of Calgary, high school students with averages over 90 per cent and who apply for early admission automatically become members of the School's Advantage Program. Perks include a guaranteed room in residence, early course registration, complimentary use of the fitness facilities during the summer before registration, and discounts at the university bookstore. The University of Saskatchewan's Greyhound Scholars' Society is similar: high school students can apply for membership as early as Grade 10 provided they have averages over 95 per cent. Perks include a personal recruitment officer to guide the student through all steps of the admissions, the waiver of the \$50 application fee, and an invitation to attend a Greyhound campus day in June any where high school students can visit other members. Students are also automatically guaranteed a \$2,000 scholarship if they enroll at Saskatchewan. Once on campus, the

Greyhound Scholars' club is an exclusive place for them to meet and socialize throughout their undergraduate experience.

But even rivaling high school marks may be enough to qualify a student for some merit scholarships. At Lakehead, a student with a 75 per cent high school average is automatically given \$250, renewable over four years. In Ontario, a fully half of all students graduating from high school have an average over 80 per cent. At the University of Lethbridge, students with a decent academic standing in the first year, and who demonstrate community leadership, volunteer service, or qualities such as artistic abilities, can qualify for Early Entrance Awards worth between \$1,000 and \$2,000, and High School Entrance Awards worth up to \$3,500.

Other marketing slogans include, "Canada's Green University" (the University of North Carolina at Greensboro), "The Next Student Experience Among Canada's Leading Research-Intensive Universities" (Western), and "Inspire

with "affinity" who moves around the room highlighting the view and other nice features. The website also offers the Bouncing Pops program. Acadia will refund a prospective student's one-way transportation costs to visit the campus, from anywhere in the country. The only caveat: you have to enroll at Acadia to be reimbursed. So far this expense has been "great," says Sherrin Garrett, Acadia's director of enrollment services. Since the program launched last January, the university has hosted over 200 prospective students via the Bouncing Pops. Just how many actually registered at Acadia is a result of the program, which he knows won't know for sure, when reimbursement slips start to be submitted.

Mark Gurney, a first year promotion management student at Acadia, first heard about the Bouncing Pops program during a presentation at his high school in Calgary. He subsequently attended another Acadia-sponsored event, where he met Garrett, and eventually he talked his mom into travelling with him to Wolfville to see the campus.

"It was a big deal for my mom for me to leave home because we are so close," says Garrett. "So it was good for her to see it too, and we did a huge campus tour and some activities. I stayed at the residence and I was able to talk to people in admissions about what options were available." Before the end



RIGHT THIS WAY High schoolers on tour at the University of Saskatchewan

ing Minds" (Dalhousie). Other universities use a single word as their brand, as in Alberta's "Beacon."

Universities are also putting a lot more money into the design of websites that are interactive and feature student voices, virtual campus tours, student and faculty bloggers, and in the case of the University of Calgary, a student who blogs. At Acadia's website, students can take a tour of a residence room

of the weekend, he had explained. "It was definitely the Bouncing Pops program," says Garrett. "It really sold me."

After there would be a representative of the school to meet them.

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YOU GOT IN WITH WHAT GRADE?

An 'A' from one high school isn't the same as an 'A' from another. That's why some admissions offices are 'adjusting' grades accordingly.

BY SANDY FARRAN • It was a beautiful October day as a group of about 20 high-school students and their parents milled about outside the office of the faculty of engineering at the University of Waterloo, waiting for the tour to start. Many had taken off their jackets as the afternoon temperature climbed into the mid 20s. Engineering students—most dressed in trademark jeans and T-shirts—dogged their way between the young visitors, growing friends with high-lives-and-talk-about-Friday-night-plans. Attention focused when tour coordinator Shirley Norris appeared. "Okay," she announced, "we're going to break everyone into smaller groups. Those interested in electrical or

computer engineering can go with Jean Michel and Mark." She gestured toward the upper-year student guides, standing on the outer edge of the hall. Two high schoolers stepped forward.

Adrian Falconer, 16, and Jesse Haber-Kucharsky, 17, have come with these parents to take a look at one of the country's most competitive engineering programs. The students had never met before, but it turns out that, no surprise, they have a few things in common: both are from the Toronto area, both are in Grade 12, and both hope to one day become full-fledged, snag-bearing engineers. The tour gets off to a slow start as Falconer and Haber-Kucharsky's parents begin

to ask questions. Lots of questions: starting with co-op placements, moving on to residence spaces, back to co-op placements, on to tutoring and special help services, back again to co-op placements. Then there's a bit about the pubs and the activities for undergraduate students. And then the questions everyone's been waiting for: "What marks did you apply with to get in?" Haber-Kucharsky asks the student tour guides. High schoolers and parents alike move in a huddle closer to hear what Jean Michel and Mark have to say.

Haber-Kucharsky, who attends North Toronto Collegiate Institute in midtown Toronto, and Falconer, who attends Maple High School in Maple, Ont., a bedroom community just north of Toronto, are both excellent students with marks in the 80s and 90s. But is an 85 per cent at North Toronto equal to an 85 per cent at Maple High School? Or does a university, considering for admission two students from two different high schools, have to adjust the grades, like converting kilometers to miles or meters to feet? The question is one many universities are uncomfortable answering. But some universities are willing to admit that not every 85 is an 85—and that they do, sometimes,

WATERLOO It's one of the universities that adjusts students' high-school grades, discounting transcripts from weaker schools



Photo: University of Waterloo

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BEYOND GRADES Queen's admits up to a fifth of its class on "more than just marks"

adjust grades when weighing applications. Waterloo is one of those universities.

Over the years, there has been significant grade inflation at the nation's high schools. For example, the average grade of an Ontario entering university rose from a 76 per cent in the mid-1980s to over 81 per cent in 2003. But that, in and of itself, is not necessarily a problem for university admissions officers; it doesn't matter whether average is 75 or 126, so long as everyone is being graded on the same scale. But in some provinces, there is no common scale. Standards vary, because many provinces—Ontario being the prime example—do not have standard and provincial tests. Each school grades differently.

In the late 1990s, administrators at the University of Western Ontario did a study. The purpose was to find out whether some Ontario high schools were academically more challenging than others, and to determine whether high schools had different grading standards. Greg Moran, at the time Western's provost and vice president academic, headed up the project. "The only reason we were really interested in students' grades is because as an institution of this size, grades are the best indicator we have to judge whether our students are going to do well," said Moran. "We don't want to put students into a situation where they are not going to succeed. That's a big part of the job."

Moran's researchers looked at the average grade that high school students achieved in their first year at Western, and compared it to their entering average from high school over a five-year period in the late 1990s. The difference—referred to as the "grade drop"—showed a 14 per cent decline in the average student's grade. But "it varied from school to school," said Moran. "With some schools experiencing no average grade drop." Some Ontario high schools, on the other hand, saw average grade drops of "much more" than 14 per cent. Western had asked the question of whether an 85 at Agincourt High meant the same thing as an 85 from Orange Secondary, and had discovered that the answer was "No."

Moran shared his findings with high schools, the provincial government, and other universities. In doing so, Moran hoped they could work together to create a province-wide initiative to collect the data, controlled for factors like second language and socioeconomic differences. The response was lukewarm. "It's a thorn," says Moran. "We need informed decision making."

In the end, Western used the data to admis-



WESTERN FOUND THAT UNIVERSITY GRADES FOR STUDENTS FROM SOME HIGH SCHOOLS DROPPED BY 'MUCH MORE' THAN 14 PER CENT. OTHER SCHOOLS SHOWED NO DROP.

sions, but only on a limited basis. "If we still had space remaining at the end of the day, rather than lowering the standards, we would look at students who were very close to the cut-off but came from some of the better schools," says Moran. "We used it as a tool, not a way."

Many universities, however, say that they are opposed to tinkering with ranking high schools. A spokesperson at the University of Toronto gave an unequivocal "no" when asked if the institution ranked high schools. Laurie Pugh, admissions director at the University of Saskatchewan, said she wasn't "highly likely" if there is a drop in marks, it is the students' fault or is it? "We've set the criteria. Our job now is to help them be successful."

Queen's University's Kingston, Ont., does not adjust high school grades, but tries to somewhat downplay the role of marks by asking applicants to provide a "personal statement of experience." According to university registrar Jo Anne Blandy, it is Queen's policy that "no more than 10 per cent and no fewer than five per cent of the classes will be admitted on the basis of more than just marks." That's where the personal essays come in. For

some highly competitive programs such as medicine, she says that admissions officers read almost all the statements because of the high number of students with an average above the "admissions selective range."

At McGill University, where more than half of the undergrads come from overseas or another province, admissions have gathered information to try to compare high school grades from different jurisdictions. But according to Morton Mandelbaum, deputy provost of student life and learning, after completing an "informal" study the university was "satisfied" that kids from other provinces were doing as well as students from Quebec. "The problem is because the students we get are in the top 10 per cent of high school," says Mandelbaum. "We're in the over the level of where students succeed. Even if a 90 per cent in Province A is only 85 per cent in Province B, it's still good. We get the best of the best."

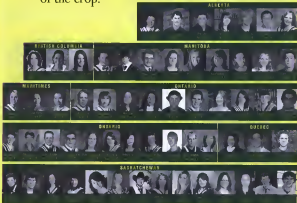
Yet there are other universities who say they find comparative high-school data quite useful. Sean Riley, president of St. Francis Xavier University in Antigonish, N.S., says that the information from those universities with students, personal essays, portfolios, along with data ranking high schools, is helpful, particularly when deciding who is more deserving of a scholarship. Riley says St. FX evaluates each high school that has had at least 10 graduates at the university. "We do pay attention to certain schools," says Riley. "We consciously look at students and we have a good idea year after year of the fall-off rate and where [the students] is coming from. It gives us an idea of the high-school differential." Riley noted that St. FX often asks high schools to provide a



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HIGH ACHIEVERS: The average entry grade for Waterloo engineering is 88.5 per cent

realizing where a prospective student stands in relation to his classmates.

The issue of ranking high schools is a land mine that many educators and politicians would rather not touch, because it inevitably leads to a debate about a third rail of the teaching establishment: standardized high-school tests. They exist in several provinces, such as Alberta, British Columbia and Quebec, but have long been opposed by the educational establishment in Ontario. Which leaves a university like Waterloo looking for other means to accurately evaluate its applicants.

GRADE 12 STUDENTS: Haber-Kucharsky and Falconer are still waiting for the student user guides to answer their question about grades. Everyone in the group knows that a student needs good marks to get into Waterloo. According to figures released by the university, the average average for Ontario high-school students admitted to Waterloo's engineering program last fall was 88.5 per cent. Fewer than three per cent of those admitted had an average below 80 per cent. And just shy of four out of 10 of those admitted to the program had an average of nine out of 10 per cent, with nearly a quarter of those over 95 per cent.

What neither the students nor their parents realize is that during the application process the admissions department for the faculty of engineering may very well be considering an internal ranking of Haber-Kucharsky and Falconer's high schools. For more than 25 years, according to Kim



WATERLOO WON'T REVEAL WHOSE MARKS IT IS ADJUSTING, OR BY HOW MUCH, CALLING IT 'ONE SMALL FACTOR IN THE OVERALL CONSIDERATION'

Bocher, associate director of undergraduate engineering admissions, Waterloo's engineering program has collected and compared students' high-school averages with their marks from first-year university. Based on this data, each high school has been assigned what is known as an adjustment factor, shown as a percentage. So if Apple

High has an adjustment factor of nine-fifty per cent, then any student who applies may have that mark deducted from their high-school average.

So what's the adjustment factor, if any, for North Toronto or Maple High? It's not something Waterloo is willing to talk about. According to Bocher, making these numbers public would be misleading to potential students. "It's just one of many things we consider," said Bocher. "It's used very, very carefully. It's a complex process so to simply say two numbers is misleading."

She describes grade adjustment as "just one small factor in the overall consideration," and a factor whose weight has been reduced in recent years. "There is no mystery to the process," she said. "I have students ask me what is the trick! And seriously, there is no trick." But the adjustment factor at Waterloo engineering, as at other universities that use this approach, and the degree to which it weighs into the admission decision, is not made public.

So what high-school marks did the student engineers have in order to be accepted into engineering at Waterloo? Jean-Michel says he got a 94 per cent. Mark says he had an 86-plus "a lot of course completion." Nobody talks about the marking or adjustment factor for their high schools. Nobody knows to ask. ■

WEIRD SCIENCE: Grades are made the main component in the admission decision, but there are others.

PHOTOGRAPH BY COLIN D. COOPER, STYLING BY TONY WOOD, 1995

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STUNT CAR: The UBC Volkswagen Beetle, dangling from the Golden Gate Bridge

I PRANK, THEREFORE I AM

Engineering students have pulled some amazing stunts over the years. But UBC's Golden Gate prank may have been the greatest ever.

BY ERIN MEEHAN • At about 3:40 a.m. on Feb. 5, 2005, a moving van stopped abruptly in the middle of the Golden Gate Bridge. Although it was still dark, witnesses said they saw around a dozen figures emerge and push a large object over the side of the bridge. They then boarded the van, and sped away into the night. Nothing to see here. Move along. A couple of hours later, as the morning light began to filter through the thick fog that

often envelops San Francisco, viewers at View Point on the north end of the Golden Gate could make out the silhouettes of a well-known Beetle. It was dangling from the underside of the bridge, 160 metres above the water. A Canadian flag was planted on one side of the car. A big red "E" was on the other side.

The stunt caused traffic jams and stopped sleepers from peering under the bridge for hours, while the U.S. Coast Guard and California Highway Patrol puzzled over the flag and how it got there. The first half involved strapping a 25-m steel cable below the underside of one of the world's most famous and photographed structures, somehow manoeuvring what appeared to be a 1970s vintage VW Bug (which weighs more than 1,600 lb.) into position beneath the bridge, and attaching it to the cable—all without anyone noticing.

At about 5:10 a.m., the Highway Patrol cut the nylon cord holding the car to the steel cable, plunging it into the water below. It sank quickly to the bottom of San Francisco Bay, where it remains. The story was an evening newswatch across North America and also followed in newspapers the next day, from Miami to Berlin, making this one of the most widely covered pranks of all time.

The police were infuriated by the chaos, and pledged to prosecute the perpetrators. They threatened fines and charges of criminal conspiracy and trespassing, possibly leading to jail time. "We're pursuing every lead we have," said Highway Patrol officer told the San Francisco Chronicle.

The most obvious lead, a press release filed that morning in the San Francisco media by anonymous engineering students from the University of British Columbia. They claimed that they had executed the stunt in order to "draw attention to the masterful feats of professional engineers and to celebrate the skills of the students people who built the bridges."

Canada's engineering students have a long history of pranks, and this one may have been the greatest of all time. It was an original technical challenge, its execution provided awe and wonder, and the UBC students who carried it out did so in a total secrecy that they have maintained—until now.

THE RICH HISTORY of university pranks brings a wide spectrum of differing opinions about what a good prank is.

Noricon American president and author of *Abuse: Hoffman* identified three types of pranks: "good" pranks, he said, "were amazingly serious, 'bad' ones prominently vindictive, and 'neutral' ones surreal and out on the victim." Hoffman's classic example of a "good" prank occurred in 1967 when he and a group of scientists threw fistfuls of dollar

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1. The Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada. 2002.
2. Statistics Canada. 2004. 3. 2004-2005.

the scores. But that was part of the secret—the damned faculty gave me a decoy. UBC engineers were at various times also rumored to have kidnapped former prime minister Brian Campbell and former Minister of Culture Allan Rockingham.

The redoubtable identities of pranksters are deeply guarded, as I discovered while pursuing the Golden Gate perpetrators. "The Engineering Undergraduate Society of UBC," gives the group's official statement, "has led, and continues to have, no knowledge regarding the planning of, execution of, or persons involved with any stunts past, present and future."

KRISTIE DUNWOODY, associate dean of engineering at UBC, first heard of the Golden Gate prank when he arrived at his office that Monday morning in 2001. His first phone call of the day was from a San Francisco radio station.

Dunwoody was careful not to admit culpability on air, but that didn't stop action from trying to get information out of him. "I had someone phoning me from the California Highway Patrol looking for a list of names of students so they could try to figure out who had done this by comparing the uniforms to the list of people who had come into the States," Dunwoody recalled. He refused to hand over the names without a request in writing.

"UBC proper had never been involved in [the stunt], as we never saw," said Dunwoody. But did he or UBC ever find out who was responsible for the act? "Let's say we didn't ask," he responded. He admitted as much as to anyone with direct knowledge of the stunt. Dunwoody, who was an engineering student at UBC in the early '70s before he

opening a professor in 1985, shrugs that curiosity is a drive to greet pranks. His favorite prank occurred in the mid-'60s when a number of modern art sculptures mysteriously appeared on campus. "There was some questioning, bureaucratic folk chimed in that these were good and they became a part of UBC," Dunwoody said. "Later on that year, the engineers went down with a helicopter and started installing these things up, at which point there was great fear that the engineers were heading some sort of people who didn't appreciate fine art." The engineers allowed the outrage to reach a climax, then showed photographs showing that all of this supposedly fine modern art was

nothing but junk they had created themselves. "At that point," said Dunwoody, "everybody shut up and left."

Dunwoody argues that the school's green street's originality was what made it one of the all-time homes. "A lot of pranks are the same



WHILE MOST CANADIAN UNIVERSITIES OFFICIALLY DISCOURAGE PRANKS, MIT HAS PRACTICALLY INCORPORATED THEM INTO THE CURRICULUM



BOULDER HORSE, gifted by UBC Engineers, reef diving at MIT

thing as far year," he said, and noted that the Golden Gate Bridge prank commemorated the 20th anniversary of the first VW bug prank, when UBC engineers hung a car off Vancouver's Lion's Gate Bridge. "Without the creativity, it comes down to safety and technical difficulty."

WHILE CANADIAN UNIVERSITIES officially discourage pranks, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology has practically incorporated pranking into the curriculum, believing that the technical nature of most engineering stunts contributes to the students' education. MIT pranks (as the school calls "tricks") have become an established activity.

But at least one UBC engineering alumna believes that MIT has nothing on UBC's trickster traditions. "I was just in touch with a graduate who, in the words of one blogger, 'is legendary at UBC for taking 14 years to complete a normally four-year bachelor's program,' and leading the 'Golem in their driveway' nonlethal for most of that span."

"There is no mystery," said the engineer, who asked to be identified only as "M." No one else has taken this to the degree that we have." He calls MIT's pranks "not clever," aimed out on campus and without danger. "As for Canadian universities, I say there haven't been any great pranks recently from other parts of the country." The Times (which didn't make national news), he pointed out. But he says that when the UBC engineers stole the Rose Bowl trophy in 1992, it was one of the top stories on CNN.

For Yu, a great prank must appear difficult or impossible to the general public. Involving a famous landmark seems to focus pranks for the most important part in the sense of accomplishment. "When you do something like this you are adding to the history," he said. "It's a great thing to do by the organization that has done this thing in the past." The stunts are also the achievement for the department, according to Yu. "They say, 'Here's UBC engineers!'"

Recently, UBC engineers even took taking a new approach to pranking—shifting from acts of delinquency to gestures of kindness. Earlier this year, a sculpture made of soap and marked with the engineering department's signature red "E" was installed overnight in front of the Vancouver Port Bank. Students also saved a huge red engineering jacket for a prominent statue at Stanley Park and walked it with clothing donations.

Yu claimed to know people directly involved in the Golden Gate prank but would not reveal their names. "Stunts are done in the name of UBC, not in the name of an individual," he insisted, noting that some of the pranksters choose to stay silent to avoid liability or prosecution. According to another source, a current engineering student, none of the Golden Gate engineers has re-entered the United States since 2001, for fear of being apprehended.

Car Mills, a former UBC film student, can attest to the UBC pranksters' combination of pride and secrecy. They agreed to partici-

pate in "Engineering Notoriety," a short documentary on UBC engineering culture produced for a school project. She found that while her subjects agreed to speak in detail about many stunts, the pranksters of making the Golden Gate stunt itself, was almost all ways out of bounds. But she was extremely keen to get some key information about the prank on tape. She allowed me to watch the film, which was never intended for public viewing, so long as Mills (who signed) not to identify those she interviewed.

So how did they succeed a decade from the Golden Gate Bridge? Some insight into the stunt can be gathered from details of the prank in comparison, the hanging of a VW Beetle 20 years earlier from the Lion's Gate Bridge in North Vancouver. According to a former engineering society president from the 1980s (who lived in Mills's film), that stunt was carefully researched, and included retaining an engineering consulting firm to ensure that the weight of the car would not damage the bridge's support beams.

However, as U.S. authorities involved in the Golden Gate case discovered, the weight hanging from the ropes could not be as significant as appeared. The vehicles hung from the Golden Gate and Lion's Gate bridges were only shells, the heavy engines, wheels and axles having been removed. "A group of us tore down a Volkswagen in a basement," an engineering alumnus from the 1980s says. In the film, the engineering society VW expert is what was apparently UBC's first successful stunt involving a Beetle, and the stunt team placed a car on the top of the Lion's Gate Bridge. "We pulled the two halves of the Volkswagen up either side," he told Mills. "We bolted it together on the top."

The Golden Gate prank may also have been a two-step, two-day ordeal. The original Lion's Gate stunt was. On the first day, according to the former engineering society president, a steel cable was hung in a loop from the support girders underneath the bridge. The loop was then clipped to the handrail for easy access. Attaching the cable required a delicate touch to avoid triggering an alarm, but once it was in place was hardly visible. On the second day, the students were given an unlikely gift, a motor car accident on the bridge called traffic. The traffic jam gave them just enough time to remove the shell of the VW from their flatbed truck, unclip the cable from the hand-

rail, attach it to the car, and throw it over the side of the bridge—all in just minutes.

Since the Lion's Gate stunt, vintage VW bugs have been reported hanging from almost every bridge on the Vancouver coast, the Musqueam Tunnel, and the wooden railcar over-



IT HANGS THE SPOT UBC engineers leave their calling card

the Pacific National Exhibition. The second 20 years of experience, most have contributed to the success of the most challenging part of the Golden Gate stunt: hanging a 27-ton cable under the bridge in adverse, without detection.

In the film, a current engineering student says that the stunt had the San Francisco cable stayed in hiding under the bridge for an entire day, waiting for the moving van to arrive under the threat of darkness. When the van drove up, they quickly draped the nylon cord and hit the bag drop.

The UBC engineers who hit the Golden Gate had also apparently originally planned for this to be a simultaneous, two-city prank, with a second bag to have been hung from the Lion's Gate Bridge. The Vancouver end of the plan was foiled when students anguished someone on the crossing, and were discovered by the RCMP.

Though I spoke to a number of engineers who claimed to have knowledge of the event, no one ever mentioned being a Golden Gate prankster. And in respect that, of all of those I spoke to, to build the outside knowledge of the stunt. So, exaggerated, I asked one more time: how the hell did they get the 27-ton cable under the bridge? "Oh," said I, slightly surprised by my question, "that was the easy part." ■

MORE ON THE WEB: Read Tim Miller's blog at millernews.com/engcomp

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SIMON FRASER launched a joint computer science program with a Chinese university, only to find that its own students had trouble keeping up.

STATE OF UNREADINESS

Many students are finishing high school short on basic writing and math skills. Universities can watch them fail, or figure out ways to help.

BY SARAH FARRAN • In September 2005, 25 students from Simon Fraser University in Burnaby, B.C., and 25 students from Zhejiang University in China began the first year of a new joint computer science degree program between the two universities. At once nervous, Simon Fraser president Michael Stevenson hailed it as "an important step" in the university's international efforts. "This program will create graduates who combine a strong command of their discipline with a deep cross-cultural understanding and a well-developed command of a foreign language." It would be a unique opportunity for exceptional Simon Fraser students.

But once the program started, it quickly became apparent that the Canadians in it were struggling. The First World students were simply not as educationally advanced as their developing world colleagues. The

Chinese students were much more comfortable in English than the Simon Fraser students were in Chinese—perhaps not a surprise given that English is the global language. But the real shocker was in math and science. The Canadians were way behind. "If they were there, we joined with Chinese students, and their experience has been, I think for 90 per cent, their math science background is significantly behind their Chinese peers," according to Stevenson. "It's very challenging to them. Let's put it that way."

The original program required students to take an intense first year of language instruction—Mandarin for SFU students, English for Zhejiang students—in their home university. In second and third year, both cohorts would study a variety of courses including math, science, and second language at SFU.

living in China. This would be followed by a fourth and fifth year at SFU.

"It's kind of a challenge to a joint program when the students start at different levels," says Stevenson. "Canadian students start behind." Chinese faculty helpfully offered Stevenson that they would be "happy to give extra office hours" and extra help to their less-educated Canadian charges.

As a result of these disparities, the Simon Fraser program has been changed. Canadian students will still do a language year in Mandarin at SFU, as well as courses in math and science to upgrade their skills. For the Canadians, this is a five-year degree. But for the Chinese students, the first year of the program has been dropped. For them, it's now a four-year degree.

Canada's success had many young people enrolled in higher education, in fact, is a proportion of its youth population, Canada has more people in college and university than any other country. The trouble is that many university-bound students—sometimes even allegedly good students—have no idea how unprepared they are for university. Universities quietly acknowledge that they are not screening a large number of kids who aren't actually ready for university, but who arrive on campus, after a high-school experience marked by high grades and insufficient learning, blissfully unaware of the disparity between their skills and a degree's demands.

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SCOME HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS think that their students are a big part of the problem. Last June, five assistant teachers from Owen Sound, Ont., did a very uncharacteristic thing: they sent a letter to the editor of the local newspaper criticizing their employer—the Bluewater District School Board—for failing to address their concerns about students advancing and graduating without basic skills. “We feel students are ill-prepared to meet the expectations at the post level and that no meaningful input is gathered or accepted from students, parents, teachers or students, beyond that which already reaches the Board’s position,” the teachers wrote. “We hope by raising an awareness we can all participate in making our educational system better both in our district and at the provincial level.”

In an interview with *Maclean's*, Nereid Phillips, one of the five teachers who signed the letter, describes an educational system that is “more focused on meeting graduation rates and raising the marks or ‘growth rate scores’ than with real achievement and learning. Phillips, a teacher for more than 20 years, describes a high school system where teachers are not permitted to deduct marks for late work or missed classes; are required to give students multiple opportunities to make up for incomplete work; cannot impose consequences for high numbers of absences; and are under pressure from parents and admin-istrators to raise failing marks. Phillips says that her colleagues are reporting that more and more students are “disengaged and unwilling to work towards their education.”

At nearly 50 per cent of those who graduate from Ontario high schools head off to university, with comparable numbers in the rest of the country. As a result, universities from coast to coast are having to ramp up their remedial support services and expand their remedial programs in an effort to help students before they fail, or so often that they drop out or are failed out.

At SFU, Chinese experience shows it isn't just weak students who can be sometimes overwhelmed by the challenges of university. Even scholarship students can find that high school success has given them an exaggerated sense of their own abilities. “Who asked whether he could join Scarborough high school did a good job preparing him for university,” Jeffrey Lau, a second-year biomedical student at UBC University, had this to say: “I’m so smart and I think most [high schools] don’t prepare you well in science. You hear kids who have 40 per cent in high school and that drops a lot in university.” Lau, winner of a \$40,000 TD Canada Trust scholarship, says high school is more about “regurgitating” and “memorizing.” “They don’t force you to

think of how to do the question, you don’t learn the concept. In university it’s about the concept.” During his first semester, Lau says he had to take a lot of figuring out, especially after he got 40 per cent on his first report, something he hasn’t repeated.

But for many students, it isn’t a matter of simply being down and trying harder. Without serious assistance upon arrival, Canadian universities are finding that they have no choice but to provide students with extensive academic support services—some mandatory, most not—through writing centres, peer tutoring, and workshops.

For example, many universities are requiring students to take mandatory proficiency tests. At the University of Waterloo, almost all students must write a five-paragraph essay, which is graded on grammar, punctuation

briefly covers problem grammar areas, such as “Commas, only twice, try first,” “Is that your modifier dangling?” “Colon therapy,” and “They is a problem.”

At Ryerson University, in an effort to make its graduation rate, the engineering department has introduced a mandatory five-year writing skills test and a math proficiency test. Those who perform poorly in the writing test are encouraged to take a remedial course and try again. Anyone who does not pass the test by third year will not be permitted to go on. In addition, engineering students are required to take a math proficiency test as part of their first-year calculus course. Those who do not pass the test can take it again in the winter semester—after completing a remedial course in math.

In the late 1990s, the University of Ottawa found that an unacceptably high number of

HARDY PROGRAMS are taking first-years to find out what they didn't learn in high school



YOU CANNOT GET BY WITHOUT A FLUENCY IN MATHEMATICS. FAR TOO FEW STUDENTS HAVE IT AND THIS MEANS A LOT OF THEM HAVE A REAL CHALLENGE.

and structure. Students who fail the course—and about one-quarter did last year—are required to get extra help. Other Waterloo programs include the tutoring-in-residence program, where tutors in areas such as accounting and engineering set up shop in various residences at least once per week. In 2002, the university implemented “Guerrilla Grammar,” a five-minute, in-class presentation that

first-year students taking calculus were dropping out, failing or had marks low enough to be deemed “at risk.” The fluency of some was improved by giving a math-tutor-in-class and by having a retired high-school teacher to help counsel and tutor students. At first, things improved somewhat, but in 2003—the double cohort year—failure rates started to climb back up again. Other basic courses at Ottawa, such as first-year philosophy, encountered for certain math and science students, experienced similar difficulties.

In response, the university expanded the number of drop-in centres to 16 and hired hundreds of student tutors. It also hired 100 tutors to review thousands of first-year student test scores, early in the first term. By mid-October of first year, if a student was deemed to be in trouble, a faculty scholar had called him or her to talk about getting help. Ottawa officials say they’ve begun to



WHAT'S THE? One university hired statisticians to dissect test scores, to find what students

are weak in some courses, including first-year calculus, where the rate of students at risk has dropped to 18 per cent, from 24 per cent five years ago.

Like the majority of educators interviewed for this article, Stevenson of SFU agrees that high school applicants are generally more prepared than not for university, but says that there are important exceptions in two areas, and they’re big ones: what he describes as “quantitative analysis requirements” and “written verbal requirements.”

“The level of expectation for theory and written skills and communication skills at the university is very high,” says Stevenson, who stresses that it’s not just a problem of immigrants struggling in a second language. “So many kids find that huge hurdle when they get to university. Finally, their language skills are not up to it.”

The other area of concern for Stevenson is math. “The truth of the matter is not only in the sciences and the applied sciences, but in the social sciences today you cannot get by without a high school [Grade 12 level] fluency in mathematics,” says Stevenson. “Far too few students graduating have it and this means a lot of them have a real challenge; they have to pick up some kind of additional qualification when they are at the university. They can’t get into the sciences without the prerequisites, but they often find themselves in social sciences where they don’t have the math to do it.”

Last year, Simon Fraser introduced a comprehensive curricular reform, whose goal was to ensure that every undergraduate student achieved a certain level of proficiency in math, writing and communication skills. Stevenson says that as a result involving a group of concerned majors who were caught cheating

was one of the factors that spurred the university-wide rethink.

The students involved in the scandal had very good math skills and had no problem coping with 90 per cent of the coursework, but they couldn’t cope with the written work.”

says Stevenson. “When they were suddenly presented with something that required a short essay form, they couldn’t do it, so they found a way to do it that was less than honest. This incident suggested to us that we might have a large number of students whose written skills were really not up to it, and we didn’t have the curriculum designed and the pedagogy shaped to address that.”

Under the new regime, all SFU undergraduates are required to take at least two minor writing courses and two quantitative analysis/communication courses. All Grade 12 applicants will also have to obtain a minimum 75 per cent in Grade 12 English and at least a 70 per cent in Grade 12 math before they can register in the new curriculum’s mandatory core courses. Students who score below the minimum in Grade 12 English or math will have to take additional literacy and math upgrading courses within the first three terms. Only then will they be able to enroll in the mandatory core courses.

“We spend a lot on remedial to get [students] here, and they spend a lot on fees,” says Stevenson. “Government and citizens spend a lot of money supporting their education. It’s a terrible waste to allow them to fail out.”

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BEHIND THE EXPERIMENT: Joe Kohn goes a more approachable lecture than traditional lectures

BY JOE COLEMAN Imagine waking up for your first day of school, nervous about your first lecture—but instead of a long commute or even a walk across campus, you start class by rolling out of bed and flipping open your laptop.

That's how it is for some at McMaster University, where all first-year psychology students take their course online, on an interactive Web 2.0 website. The website offers the 3,200 students in the course (yes, you read that right—3,200) access to their lectures, forums to discuss material, the professor's blog, and instant messaging access to one of the course's 76 teaching assistants (for free).

The public face of this new learning experience is Joe Kim, a contract teaching professor, whose youth means that he is often mistaken for one of his "ds." "The goal of the course is to deliver the course in a method that maximizes learning," says Kim, whose

area of expertise is the psychology of learning. According to Kim, as the traditional lecture hall students must take in as much information as possible within a set window of time, the priority becomes taking notes, not learning or understanding. "Is this really the best learning environment?" he asks. He says that the immersive environment created in the online lecture appeals to visual, audio and kinesthetic (hands-on) learners, some of whom find it difficult to achieve in the old-fashioned environment of a lecture hall. "We really engage all types of learners," he says. What's more, by delivering the course on video, Kim claims that he is able to focus more time on students, less on lecturing.

Courses online or on video are nothing new, of course. Distance education has been around for generations, and since 1990, some students at McMaster have been taking the Intro to Psych course without the physical presence

of a teacher. Until this year, they would sit in a classroom and watch professor Rick Day on video. "We went through every video format there was, from old projection film to DVD last year," Day recalls. McMaster has grown considerably since 1969, and one of the challenges of that growth is space. The original video lectures were shown to groups of about 50 students at a time, with current enrolment that would mean 64 separate viewings and classrooms, requiring a massive amount of lecture space. McMaster found it could solve this problem by going to an online format.

But Kim's new course is more than just an academic YouTube posting. Instead, the Web lecture is embedded within a screen offering instant click-throughs to multiple layers of Psych 101 resources. In the top left of the screen, the student sees Kim as he delivers the lecture. Below Kim is a sidebar where students can view the day's outline, flashcards of the lecture slides, notes from the professor, and a search feature. In the center of the screen, students see the lecture slides, graphics and videos, similar to the screen in a typical lecture hall.

The great advantage of the online format is that everything the professor says can be searched, revisited and parsed. Students can click to go back to a topic, they can return to any slide to view it again, and they can use a keyword-based search feature. Students can focus on the lecture without worrying about missing something important while feverishly taking notes.

Kim says that, as a result of the set up, he offers more office hours than any professor on campus, scheduling six hours a week and meeting with students by appointment as well. Every few weeks he also delivers a special in-person Friday evening live lecture which brings out 400 students and includes content between tutorial sections. One of the perks is handing out prizes, something of value to the mac and cheese crowd. Students can also email Kim directly from their lecture screen if they have questions.

But the new format does take some getting used to. "It's hard to stay on track," says Natasha Chelms, an 18-year-old first-year from Soreby Creek, Ont. All things considered, she says she'd prefer the rigidity of a scheduled lecture. "You really have to discipline yourself."

For Kim, he and his team already have plans to take the program to the next level giving students the chance to learn more and deliver on source materials by linking academic journals directly into the lectures. ■

ON THE WEB: Joe Coleman covers the country's campuses on his blog at www.mcmasters.ca/joecoleman

PHOTOGRAPH BY JOE COLEMAN



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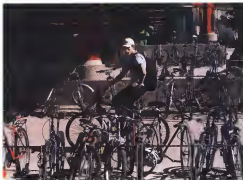
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*Illustration of increased translucency as effect of acid wear



FIND YOUR SPOT: Don't just park yourself at a university. First, figure out why you want to be there.

THIS PLACE IS NOT FOR YOU—YET

Not everyone should go to university, and not everyone should go right now. Jeff Rybak says taking time off could be your wisest move.

YOU WONDER IF IT'S A LAPTOP, only because

everyone else suddenly pivoted, right? You'd buy a laptop if you read one first. You wouldn't buy a bike without thinking about what you intend to use it for—racing, off-road, or urban transportation? You know that advertisement for the latest SUV after trying to tell you a lifestyle (the great outdoors, wide views, cool friends) isn't distinct from them thinking about the actual product. But sometimes we recognize their means when it comes to other products, we often fail to see the same things when it comes to education.

If you've thought carefully about what you really want, and why you want it, and what you intend to do with it, then look at if you aren't thinking measured by your friends and family, pushed toward a decision you never really made, and focused mainly on lifestyle and some vague concept of success, that's great. In that case, keeping that if you're like almost everyone else, caught up in the hype so at least some degree, you

deserve to hear the other side of the story.

Education is an investment. But contrary to popular opinion, it isn't necessarily the money in the bank. It's far closer to playing the stock market. There are winners and there are losers, and every year many students graduate having invested tens of thousands of dollars, and years of their lives, in education that doesn't pay off. There's nothing riskier than an average university education does pay off, but that only means it's a pretty decent bet for most people. And if you don't bet that most people choose the investment you're making and your plan for the future, well, being does tend to favour the thoughtful and the informed. If you aren't careful, you might end up on the losing side of average.

I don't want to undervalue the value of education to only dollars and cents. There's enough of that in the media already. Many people look at that as the bottom line, and if that's you, it's fine to think in those terms, but even if it's not, the same equation holds true. Education

can't fail to pay off when you invest all that time and money and simply don't get what you want for whatever it may be. If you intend to expand your mind, but you spend most of your time at the bar, that's failure too. Lives if you do gain something, but much less than you might have gained if you avoided curiosity and with more foresight, that's also a kind of failure.

When you're looking to buy a computer, or a bike, or a new SUV, it's easy to feel like the money is there and a hole in your pocket. Salespeople are trained to exploit that, and they want to close the deal as soon as they can. But as consumers, we all know it's after the sale to wait. We can go home and think it over. We can do a little more research, and focus on our specific needs. The money will still be there.

It's not work, or not enough. And the same is true of education. Whether the money is your own or your parents' or the government's, it'll still be there next year. You can afford to wait and get it right.

I know it can seem like time is against you, but time is actually the cheapest thing you could possibly ask for. You can work at some temp service job, with low pay and minimal opportunities, and if you aren't too hung about the way you live, you can support yourself for any amount of time that way. Take a year to think about things. Take two. You don't lose any options when you choose not to jump right into post-secondary education. You only start to lose options when you do jump in, find you aren't ready yet, and as a result make a bunch of things. At that point all kinds of doors close shut.

I would never suggest that education is unimportant. The very fact that it's so important is the best and most compelling reason to go to college. You'll have a lot of people pushing you toward university whether you're ready for it or not. Don't be afraid to stand your ground and say "no," or at least "not yet." That takes time to make a decision, right away, may turn out to be the best decision you've ever made. ■

MORE ON THE WEB: Read Jeff Rybak's blog at www.rybak.ca/jeff. Rybak is the author of *What's Missing With University: And How To Make It Work for You Anyway*.

PHOTOGRAPH BY COLIN A. COOPER

MARCH/APRIL 2020 137

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HEAVEN'S GATE A Ph.D. from a U.S. university like Berkeley built across a special cohort in Canada.

in films. A watershed 1976 report on Canadian Studies entitled "To Know Churchill" brought the nationalist debate out of the ivory tower and into the public consciousness. The report, written by the founding president of Trent University, T.H. Spencer, concluded that generations of Canadian history, politics and society were greatly uprooted, and that many departments were reflective of lost Canada. By 1972, the federal government had eliminated the tie holding and mandated paternalistic hiring practices, some of which persist today.

Moreover, Canadian doctoral programs began to mature and the explosion of Canadian undergraduates became an explosion of Canadian doctoral candidates. Only 306 Ph.D.s were awarded in 1960, but by 1979 that number had ballooned to 1,438. Since 1992, Canadian universities have conferred at least 1,000 doctorates every year. And while a good number of Canadians are doing graduate work overseas, they are in the majority: Canadian citizens earn five times as many doctoral degrees in Canada as in the U.S.

Ascher, a Canadian who earned his Ph.D. at Duke University in 1985, says, "I'm sure mostly people coming out of Canadian doctoral programs are as competitive as graduates from any program. If I'd grown a bilateral relationship [between American Ph.D.s], I don't know if it persists today."

But a survey of faculty biographies suggests that it just might. At many schools, American-trained academics account for a significant proportion of the faculty. For example, at Ascher's department at the University of Calgary, of the 21 regular, full-time faculty members, 11 have Canadian doctorates while eight have American ones. The department's nine political science at Queen's is 14 to five in favor of Canadian Ph.D.s, while Carleton's physics department has 10 Canadian and two American Ph.D.s.

But at the University of Toronto, McGill and the University of British Columbia—three of the country's largest and most prestigious research-focused universities—American-trained academics are often in the majority. In political science, the percentage of faculty who are American-trained is 59 per cent at UBC, 65 per cent at U of T and 76 per cent at McGill. In English, American-trained scholars are 43 per cent of the faculty at UBC, 52 per cent at U of T and 50 per cent at McGill. In physics, the change runs from 36 per cent American-trained at McGill to about 60 per cent at U of T.

What's more, recent trends suggest that

American Ph.D.s could be becoming even more common in academia. Of the U of T's 25 assistant professors in English—those youngest and most recently hired—15 had American doctorates. In McGill's political science department, six of eight assistant professors are U.S. trained, as physics at UBC, 23 of 31 is.

Wes Felsch, graduate chair of English at McGill, says that U of T, UBC and McGill "are themselves in global, not just national competition, and they are constantly trying to attract faculty that will contribute to making the best possible educational experience and environment for their students." Others, like Bruce Bowen of the UBC political science department, are more blunt: "If you

IN MANY DEPARTMENTS, PARTICULARLY AT TOP CANADIAN RESEARCH UNIVERSITIES, AMERICAN-TRAINED FACULTY ARE IN THE MAJORITY

look at the top 30 programs in political science, most of those programs are in the United States."

So what makes a good graduate school? A landmark 1994 survey of department heads, published in the Canadian Journal of Higher Education, identified several factors that lead a student to timely completion of a degree and future job market success. Among the most powerful are factors relating to effective faculty supervision of Ph.D. candidates. "The better schools are schools in which you see good students, particularly at the doctorate level, co-authoring conference papers and journal articles with their supervisors," says Ascher.

Good doctoral programs train students to become "top notch researchers," says James Bickel, assistant head of civil engineering at the University of Manitoba, and it is their body of work that plays a central role in their success in the job market. Character counts, too, he believes, especially when considering comparable applications for a tenure-track position. "I don't care what university they've come from," says Bickel. "That's a tertiary issue. I want to see the person."

What evidence we have suggests that, at least when it comes to undergraduate degrees, the job market can take about your university, and a lot about your ability when you went to school may not matter. A study cited in 1999 study by American economists Alan Krueger and Stacy Dale found that the qual-

ity of a university matters less than the quality of the student. Their survey of 519 undergraduate students from the 1970s indicated that those who were accepted to a highly selective university but attended a less-selective school instead did just as well in terms of future earnings as students who actually went to the highly selective university. But it is true when the subject is graduate school.

"A motivated undergrad can get a good education at a university that is not great [good]," says Scott Jeschke, editor of the American online magazine Inside Higher Education. "It is not possible to get a great Ph.D. every where." Bickel agrees, saying students who only get accepted into lesser schools are neither not cut out to be academics, or weren't receive adequate training. "If you can't get into one of the, say, top 20 to 30 Ph.D. programs in North America maybe you shouldn't go to graduate school," he says.

The stark statistical imbalance between Ph.D. graduates in the U.S. and Canada is also likely to play a greater role in the future. A 2002 report by the Association of Universities and Colleges in Canada (AUCU), the universities' lobby group, estimated that by 2021, as many as 45,000 new faculty will be

needed due to growing demand for higher education and the retirement of the baby boomers. If the AUCU is right, there will be the 1950s all over again: university Canada can't afford to hold onto its academics. Canadian doctoral program graduates will be too few to meet the demand.

Others are sceptical. "Ph.D. students have been chasing the market's open eye for well over a decade now," says Felsch, and Ascher says that new students will face fierce competition for jobs. "Because the job market was so tight in the late 1990s to the late 1990s, people really had to have exceptional CVs to get out and be successful, and that is not the case today where our Ph.D. students were really being pushed to be competitive with the best students globally."

As for Chris Mead, he did think "long and hard about Toronto," but in the end he couldn't resist a chance to study at Berkeley. "Their 19th-century literature faculty and resources are unparalleled both in Canada and the States." Will he ever return to Canada? "Ideally I'd like to come back," he says. If the data, he'll be more evidence that, if you want to become a Canadian academic, the smart path may be through the United States. ■

AMERICAN BEAUTY

Want to become a professor? You'll need a Ph.D.—and the resumés of Canadian faculty suggest you might want to do it in the U.S.

BY CARSON JEREMA • Among graduate students, Chris Mead could be considered one of the best. After receiving the Whitby Masters Thesis Award for top M.A. thesis in English at the University of Manitoba, Mead began his Ph.D. studies in fall 1997 in Canada, but at the University of California Berkeley.

"Some people think you can only do good work south of the border," says Mead. The specialist in the representation of medicine in 19th-century literature disagrees with that assumption, but he has nevertheless added his name to the list of thousands of Canadian students who earned degrees from an American university. These students are sipping with their first when many in the academic world suppose, but won't try on the myth: if you want to become a professor, an American Ph.D. may give you an edge.

Is there any truth to this belief? We decided to try to answer the question by looking at a random selection of university departments, to discover where they hired—and where those professors came from. So would you be better off with a U.S. grade or degree? The answer: maybe.

The apparent preference for foreign faculty began in the 1950s. Between 1954 and 1985, undergraduate enrollment in Canadian universities increased 400 per cent. Cana-

dian doctoral programs were underdeveloped, but someone had to teach all these new students. "We just weren't producing the number of Ph.D.s even to fill our own needs," says Keith Ascher, former associate dean of arts, and professor of political science at the University of Calgary.

It was partly just a matter of sheer numbers then, and it may still be today. There are over 300 doctorate-granting universities in the United States, turning out over 40,000 Ph.D.s every year. Canada confers less than one thousandth the number of doctorates. In 2001, only 45 Canadian schools awarded Ph.D.s, and more than half the Ph.D.s awarded came from just six schools.

Back in the '50s and '60s, doctors and department heads looked overseas to recruit offering generous salaries and a new place to do research for American and British academics willing to come to Canada. In his 1996 book, *Inside the Ivory Tower*, historian Jack Granatstein estimated that Canadian universities hired an estimated 10,000 of the country's best American professors 75 per cent of faculty in the 1950s to less than half by the end of the 1960s.

The nationalistic backlash was not long in coming. As early as 1968, there was a massive campaign for preferential hiring of Canadian

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PLAYING IN THE BIGS

Canadian universities are being offered entry into the NCAA, the elite league of U.S. college sports. Should they jump at the opportunity?

BY CAMERON AIRMWORTH VINCE • Every year hundreds of athletes across the country reject offers from Canadian universities and colleges to pursue a dream: a U.S. sports scholarship. Those who have flown south and flourished include golfer Mike

Leon. Going head-to-head with money sports like football could be years—maybe a decade—away. Instead, Philip says joining the NCAA as a way of allowing U.S.C. to play competitively at other sports where the school would be at a disadvantage.

Web, soccer sensation Christine Sinclair, and two-time National Basketball Association MVP Steve Nash. They all sharpened their skills in the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), the American college sports system, whose programs are speckled with an abundance of resources. And since, Canadian student athletes may be able to play in the NCAA without ever leaving home.

Last January, NCAA officials approved a 10-year pilot project, aimed at adding international schools to the league's ranks. The move comes less than two years after U.S.C. athletic director Rob Philip began lobbying the NCAA, arguing that Canadian schools should be allowed to join. "We see so many athletes going to the States every year that we felt Canadian schools should be doing more to try and offer opportunities for Canadian students to play in Canada," says Philip. Other schools, including the University of Alberta and Western University, have also expressed an interest in having some of their teams compete in the NCAA.

Sports fansatics will, however, have to wait a while just to watch Canadian teams in the granddaddy of U.S. college sports, the New Year's Day football bowl games. Three former powerhouses such as the University of Texas and Ohio State University, whose annual sports budgets exceed US\$100 mil-

lion even in the big money, big money college sports, Canadian squads won't increase in value behind the woodshed and parallel. In September 2006, the Carolina University basketball team played a series of exhibition games against Division I squads La Salle University and the University of Louisville. They beat La Salle but lost by only one point to Louisville, a team that was ranked sixth in its bracket at last year's NCAA March Madness tournament. Two years ago, U.S.C. won its second National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) Region I basketball championship (the NAIA is an association of smaller U.S. colleges, kind of junior NCAA). And 10 U.S.C. baseball players have been drafted by Major League Baseball teams, including Colorado Rockies ace Jeff Francis, who went in the first round five years ago. The funds available to attract student ath-



FOR ME IN, COACH U.S.C. wants to join the NCAA; Carleton has chosen it can compete

letes to stay—and play—in Canada are also becoming more plentiful. According to Canadian Intercollegiate Sport (CIS), the governing body of university sports in Canada, during the course of the 2005-06 academic year CIS schools dished out more than \$6.1 million in athletic award money. Additionally, more than \$6.1 million was given out in other named sports. That's an increase of nearly \$1 million since 2001-02, and that number is expected to grow substantially in the upcoming year. "We've cut out of every two-starred athletes in Canada in recent years," says Philip. "We've got CIS chief executive officer Mike McGrover. Although Canadian scholarship rules prohibit institutions from paying for meals, lodging and books, as permitted in the NCAA, schools in all provinces, except for Quebec, can over-ride and consequently give the students who maintain an academic average of 85 per cent or above. "Even without books and accommodation being paid for, you are still giving great value in Canada," says McGrover.

But McGrover wants to keep the NCAA out of Canada. "Having a Canadian institution being a member of the NCAA sends the completely wrong message to a league that has and that Americans are better than Canadians." She also points out that from a student perspective, the NCAA experience isn't all it's cracked up to be. "Seven out of 10 Canadian students who go south to play basketball return after one year," she says. "That's a very clear indication that too often expectations exceed reality." Dick White, the University of Regina's athletic director, agrees with McGrover and adds that Carleton have a skewed view of the entire NCAA organization. "We all look at the NCAA and we think that it's Michigan State. We're in the middle with 100,000," says White. "But we only see a very narrow band of the entire system—and the percep-

tion is that everything is easy south of the border. That's not necessarily true."

Another warning sign about the U.S. is the notion that collegiate sports, especially successful football and basketball programs, can deliver windfalls of cash to their respective institutions. The truth is quite the contrary. The NCAA estimates that college sports generate more than \$1 billion a year from ticket sales, broadcasters and sponsors, but only a handful of schools turn a profit. At the annual NCAA convention in Orlando last January, association president Myles Brand said that he believes that fewer than 10 out of more

than 1,000 college athletic programs across the U.S. make money or break even. Sports are a big money industry, but not even bigger than you think.

The first in a series of U.S. colleges to reconsider their entire sports programs, for Birmingham Southern College, a small 18,000-student school in Alabama, is now waiting out from the business of sport altogether. Birmingham used to hand out 15 full athletic scholarships per sport, at around US\$10,000 a shot. But last year, the school of trustees voted to change the way it spends its money, and choosing all of its athletic scholarships is pulled into line from the prestigious NCAA Division I level to Division II, where students don't receive a ride to play.

Philip is confident, however, the U.S.C.'s sports budget wouldn't be significantly off the actual pace the NCAA. He says that the more money "Our basketball team goes to Scotland and L.A. to play and it doesn't cost as much to go there as it does to go to Winnipeg or Regina, because they're higher density rooms." In even if the NCAA adds about a few Canadian universities, there is still no guarantee that students will flock to NCAA's new north members. "The reality is that almost every one wants to go to the U.S.," says Brian Smith, president of University Projects, a sports recruitment agency for student athletes. His company has placed 400 Canadian student athletes at U.S. universities since 1999, with total scholarship value to more than \$27 million. Smith estimates that 90 per cent of Carleton who request his company's services go to the U.S. because the level of assistance, transportation, housing and everything else can be found at home. He also points out that not many student athletes know about the scholarship opportunities available in Canada, and in any case, says that offers from American schools usually blow away anything available at home. "None of my athletes have received any outstanding amount of assistance from Carleton because the money is just not the same as in the States," says Smith. But he admits that if the NCAA ever came to Canada it would probably open the door for more athletes to enjoy, though it's difficult to predict how many would.

As to how many universities are looking south, we'll find out at the new year—when Canadian schools are expected to be able to submit formal applications to the NCAA. ■

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THE NCAA SAYS U.S. COLLEGE SPORTS BRING IN MORE THAN US\$4 BILLION A YEAR IN REVENUE—YET ONLY A HANDFUL OF UNIVERSITIES TURN A PROFIT

Another warning sign about the U.S. is the notion that collegiate sports, especially successful football and basketball programs, can deliver windfalls of cash to their respective institutions. The truth is quite the contrary. The NCAA estimates that college sports generate more than \$1 billion a year from ticket sales, broadcasters and sponsors, but only a handful of schools turn a profit. At the annual NCAA convention in Orlando last January, association president Myles Brand said that he believes that fewer than 10 out of more

ARE YOU BEING SERVED?

Nobody goes to a hospital for the food. Or to a university. Some campus cafeterias are trying to change that. Our reviewers rate their efforts.



CAPILANO COLLEGE

NORTH SHORE CAMPUS
CAFETERIA ★★★

You might think the dining area at Capilano College's main campus, nestled in the forested hills of North Vancouver, would offer a feast of first-class views. But while covering windows let in plenty of light, the scenery outside is pure parking lot. The building, heavy on exposed concrete, has all the charm of a hospital cafeteria, with food to match. There's no mistaking what you're here for: to stuff your face and get out as quickly as possible.

At peak loading times, you'll need sturdy elbows to fight your way through the crowded service line. That is, except for the salad bar, which was rapidly and easily open. We loaded up, but were soon disappointed. The lettuce was wilted, while the pickled beet root was barely pickled. Drenched in vinaigrette, it was passable.

Not so the vegetarian plate. Frankly, any three toppings include mushrooms, artichoke hearts and brussels sprouts leaves you're ade-



quately ready now the food still owed Italian justice. Lots of bread, lots of meat, lots of vegetables and some sauce. Pleased for dollar, a good deal.

The strategy, which inadvertently drew the longest line of hungry students, was by far the best dish on offer, with a full selection of a peak veggie, meat, snacks and noodles on tap. We sampled the Thai chili with chicken, which was quite spicy. The noodles were rubbery, but the flavor overcame the texture.

Conclusion: serving students on a budget can nullify the best of their picks. Bright dishes. Look for the longest line. —*Joan Kirby*

McGILL

NEW RESIDENCE HALL
CAFETERIA ★★★

The cafeteria serving McGill's New Res, a former upscale hotel, has to compete with the levy of student grab spots surrounding the downtown complex. It does so relatively well, largely avoiding the cafeteria cliché of warmed-over meat and meats of debatable origin and vintage. Visitors first encounter a well-stocked salad bar complete with dandelions, crispy noodles, dried red peppers, four different salad dressings and a nice lady who will go through all for you with pieces of shaved chicken breast for just under \$16.

The cafeteria offers three sorts of sandwiches, all of which are prepared daily. Though students can't choose their own toppings, "Whomans have been eating bread for 6,000 years" reads a sign on the counter, the sandwiches thankfully aren't quite that old. The vegetarian selection, stuffed with cheese, cucumbers, tomatoes and veggie pilot, come together nicely since grilled between two thick slices of 12-grain baguette in the panini machine.

The gourmet New Res is the thicker crust variety, stuffed with mozzarella and baked in a brick oven. It isn't quite restaurant quality, but close. A few more topping choices would be good. The advance pasta bar, meanwhile, prepares each order from scratch. The result is a choice of two pastas at dinner in a tomato, meat or cream sauce. The accompanying salad is irresistibly easy. The most leafy stuff and an onion super heat lamp-goddess look getting ready but well done—and the mix, beans and sides are a big help. Accompanied with a tangy red pepper sauce, the potato dumplings were as firm and chewy as they should be.

The grill offers chickenburgers, steak medallions and fries, along with other standard staples, carefully prepared on order. But the chef probably shouldn't be piling left over cooked meat on the side of the grill.



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apart from being useful, whoever looks over the three dollars for a cheeseburger might not be pleased to get a warmed-over patty that might have first been cooked on hoar before.

Deserts are numerous and some are healthy, but you'll pay for fruitless. A small bowl of fruit runs upward of \$5 after tax. You wouldn't cross off the street to eat at New Rex—you can't anyway. Instead, as it is to students—has being able to dine in your dorms, and dine relatively well, is a matchless advantage when it's 20° outside. —Martin Parrysen

YORK

THE STUDENT CENTRE FOOD COURT

★★

Located in the water reaches of Toronto—nearously, Pioneer Village is next door—the York campus feels sprawling, unweirdly and isolated. So with several dining options from which to choose, we go with the first one we can find (and the one that looks the busiest)—the food court within the Student Centre. Students tell us York Lanes is another good choice, which at first confuses us because we think they're evicting us for loitering. (It is, in fact, the York Lanes Retail Centre Food Court, a United Nations of North American fast food outlets including Pardon My Village, Italiani, Blenders, Poppy's Chicken, Shy Vills, Mango Mango, and Kilaoberry [Kil]).

Inside the stark, starkness of the Student Centre Food Court, there are two levels for dining, yet more people seem to be clicking away on laptops than are eating, which is perhaps a good thing when faced with options like KFC (even though the chicken is thoughtfully hot) and Taco Bell.

Though we try to keep things on the healthier side, this is basically a fast food review that indulges in from Wendy's is like a meal by itself, the cheese sauce more like cheese soup, the buns soft and pillowy. The potato itself is lovely—best to go plain next time. The vegetarian special from Pardon My Village (\$5.95) is a little too mild and a little "Auntie's special" sauce, which is rather tasty if you like silky stuff (which I do), but horrid if you don't. It's riddled with peas and carrots, a little too much of those, and a little too much of the sauce. A gummy pleasure spring roll is heaven on the guilt than pleasure. But Jimmy's Greek is just "the best" for just \$3.49 the small salad is more big than small, and generous of iceberg, lettuce, tomato, a touch of feta and good, creamy vinaigrette, and Jimmy's walk-in salad specialists are joined with spinach and feta.

Finishing off at Treat's, the Swiss chocolate

chocolatier treats like 1896 all over again. Some you can add a KFC discount to your Taco Bell combo for cheap. —Amy Rosen

RYERSON

HAIR CAFETERIA

★★★

The Hair styles a nice balance between offering students what they should be eating, and what they want to be eating. For instance, I bought a banana sandwich with my banana, and when it, that banana was gone. But I also bought a better one. See how that works?

Appl'd named, located as it is in the core of the downtown campus, right across from the boulder spiked skating rink and George's hot dog cart, the Hair's food court is well-challenged but sparked up with cherry ago, clean lines and a smooth flow. It houses the usual suspects: Blanche White, Pizza Pizza, Extreme Pita, but also newcomers like Pan Gato's (a mini-meat house on Made in Japan where you choose "Italian pasta" or "Asian noodle"), then have them tested to order with your choice of sauce, veg and protein for \$5.99.



Montreal's Deli rolls out pretzels in wraps like our veggie on a whole wheat bun, hummus, cheddar, and your standard sub and wrap toppings (\$5.15—not cheap). Pre-deli sushi at World's Fair looks lovely. One slice from Pizza Pizza tastes two hours old. There's a big lineup at the coffee spot.

The Grille World is a real boss, with an array of food parties, grilled together. Don't sure how they handle this is to ensure flame-broiling during peak hours, because I will a good whole meal if my cheeseburger (\$4.99—not cheap) is ready. But it's worth it all the same (a good burger always is). Nice that, cooked through but still juicy, fresh toppings and an appealing fat wrapper. The fries (\$1.75) are that deliciously varied, the type with the sticky, sticky vendor. (What is the?)

There's a cereal bar area at the court's core, and fresh fruit, too. Another will house a dozen varieties of herbal teas, and just about every outlet offers healthy options at a fair price—should the student decide to choose them.

Bonus: they sell chocolate bars. And every (non-alcoholic) beverage known to man. —A.R.

MONTREAL

CAFETERIA CHEZ VALERE

★★★

Located in Pavilion Jean-Bellare, a one-story slab of a building at the base of Mount Royal near Catherine Avenue, Chez Valere looks a little like a feeding hall for the Borg, cold, unwarmed and utilitarian. Though it was renovated five years ago, Chez Valere remains a product of another time, when



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MAKE SENSE OF IT ALL

with the only detraction being the length of the wait. Refraining from my own university dining choices, way back in the late 1990s, I seem to remember the mediocre appears being pretty simple: chicken ramen or beef ramen. With these days — Geoff Clifford

SIMON FRASER

RESIDENCE DINING HALL

★ ★

The first thing that catches your eye upon walking into the majestic and wood dining hall at Simon Fraser University is the banner, hung among others posted by students, that reads "Welcome to Pandan." The artist must be enjoying its version.

The dining hall is the dining cafeteria option for the 2,000 students living in SFU's residences, and so it's often the convenience, if not preferred, first choice for choice. The posted items near the entrance seems to bear little resemblance to what's actually on offer. No vegan pin-fed patties, as advertised—the guy behind the counter just threw them away. So the only option is to make through the throng in the colorful serving area, where packed up students are comfortably bumping while lining up, and see what else is available. It's recommended to smell, no, run, past the pizza, where a woman is choosing a slice of Hawaiian across a pizza hanging tray hung hard in the edge, with no guided pools of grease between the pineapple chunks.

The correct the evening was my chicken, several kebabs, with a dollop of creamy garlic mash and steamed vegetables, which were adorably decent. Also, the chicken leg was half eaten after the discovery

of a firm, but fatty substance. (Brain tissue? A sausage?) We ordered a baked potato that was several minutes shy of done. A tiny slice of beef was melted through the middle, the alleged winter garden and beef soup would have made for a great French onion soup were it covered in cheese—it was only enough, and there was no beef to speak of. We tried to subvert all down with a sparkling raspberry drink that claimed to be 100 per cent juice—tasty, if you like pure taste water sprinkled with sugar and food coloring.

This being the West Coast, an order of the pre-processed Californian salmon was on order. The only date, three days hence, should have been warning enough. Instead of the usual events, sweetie encounter was used. There were no discernible grains of rice among the crush. Thoroughly unappetizing.

One highlight was the Black Forest ham wrap. The vegetables were fresh, and the Swiss chard was a nice touch.

Across the board, food in the dining hall was too expensive for the quality on offer. The chicken dish was \$8.54, a burger sells for 75 cents.

Overall, a disappointing experience — J. K.



CREDIT CARD

Student meal plans now include off-campus dining

JOEY COLEMAN • Your meal card can do more than just purchase cafeteria food or serve as a makeshift ruler when taking notes. If your university has an off-campus partnership program, it can also buy you a meal away from the canteen.

Universities such as Guelph, Waterloo, Laurier, Western, McMaster and Windsor allow students to use their meal cards at a variety of off-campus restaurants and fast-food outlets. "Students don't need to leave the campus," says Albert Ng, director of hospitality services at McMaster. "They like to eat out with their friends." He explains that the university also benefits from the partnerships programs, as off-campus partners sponsor its campus events and clubs as part of their contracts. The university also designs the meal card to be as convenient as possible, but often credit card company. According to Ng, many students even put extra money on their meal cards, using them like debit cards, and enjoy the convenience of not having to carry cash. Parents can also load up the balance on a student card, knowing that it will go to food and not be misused.

Businesses, for their part, hope for increased student traffic. Ali Akbar, owner of a Gino's Pizzeria across from McMaster, recently introduced the option of paying by university meal card. "Students are our main customers," says Akbar, "and every student at night eat has a meal card." He says that business went up 15 per cent in the three weeks after he introduced meal card payment.

One of the main benefits for students restaurants and fast-food outlets tend to have longer hours than a campus cafeteria. Students at the University of Guelph can order a sandwich from the local Subway at 4 a.m., have it delivered to their residence door, and pay for it using their campus meal card.

Some cards even offer more than just food; the University of Waterloo's program includes a hair salon, pharmacy, 24-hour grocery store, and even taxi service. Great for those late nights when you're far from home, the buses have stopped running, you're hungry and could really use an Agropur or a good off-campus meal. —

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AND THIS IS WHERE YOU'LL LIVE

Don't count on getting into Res. For most, university means renting in the student ghetto. Oh, the horror stories we will tell.



BY JOEY COLEMAN • Landing a room in a university residence after first year is like winning the lottery—unless you get it, because your odds are often to none. Sometimes, it actually involves winning a lottery held by the university housing office.

Most universities fill what residence rooms they have with first-year students, and most universities don't even have emergency rooms for them, let alone for upper years. That means that the average student probably won't be living in res, even if he or she wants to. So prepare yourself to move unless you keep on knocking with Mom and Dad...you will (eventually or inevitably) be living off campus.

Most university towns have an area where high-income families of students live in houses near the campus, informally known as *student ghetto*. One of the most famous is the Queen's Ghettos in Kingston. A large area bordering the north of the Queen's campus, it is a neighbourhood of Second World War-era housing where population density almost outstrips that of Queen's students. Landlords rent to groups of students, with four to 16 per house. Some houses convert dining rooms, living rooms, balconies and basements into bedrooms to maximize the number of tenants in each house. Some students housing in the Queen's Ghettos is gross. And some is very, very not gross.

"Students need to be better educated themselves," says Kathy Young, municipal affairs commissioner for the Alex Merit Society,

AWARD WINNING: The landlord at 358 Veterans won Queen's Key to the Ghettos

the undergraduate student union at Queen's. The AMS is one of the more active student unions in educating students and the community at large about housing issues. And one of their missions to improve the quality of housing in the Student Property Association (SPA).

SPA's members are student volunteers, trained by city officials to recognize illegal and/or unsafe housing violations. The service is free of charge and designed to make it easier for students to get housing problems fixed. The union might housing and water a report of all violations they find. "Students can then take that report to their landlord to get them to fix the house," says Young. If that does not work, they can call the city inspector who can issue an order for the landlord to fix the rental property.

Each year, the Queen's team also awards two prizes: the Golden Cockroach for the worst rental property in the Ghettos, and the Key to the Ghettos for the best. During the winter months, students are invited to vote in their nominations. Last year, SPA's students found student living in rooms with mould, exposed radiators, cockroaches and mice. Many places also suffered from broken windows, missing screens, missing handrails, slanted floors, unsafe staircases and other violations of decrees.

The weeds, and the negative attitudes they brought to a bad landlord, may be having an effect. Take Peter Hoshino, a 2006 runner-up for the Golden Cockroach. The year after he won people to know that he'd received the award. "[He] came in the next year with completed work orders," says Young, "to show that he had vastly improved his properties." This year, a Holmes home was nominated for the Key to the Ghettos.

Phil Lums, winner of the 2008 Golden Cockroach, is a whole other story. His property at 286 Queen Street won named the worst student rental by the AMS for the second year in a row. Lums complained of a mouldy bathroom, cracked and slanted floors and a fly infested fan.

Lums, in email to the Queen's Journal, has repeatedly denied that it is a poor landlord. He says that he believes "the service I offer is as good as any other landlord," and says that none of his tenants have complained. Lums says that he just gets more attention than other landlords because he owns many properties.

But in part because of the Golden Cockroach, Lums' name is becoming synonymous with poor housing. The AMS website now has a page advising students to call them when dealing with Lums—perhaps because both of last year's runners-up for Golden Cockroach were also properties owned by Lums. "We are really, really hoping that he doesn't win it again," says Young.

Not everyone believes that the stigma of the Golden Cockroach is enough to improve student housing in Kingston. "Students won't get better housing until they learn what housing entails," says Anne Mahler Pepler, editor-in-chief of the Queen's Journal, the student newspaper. "Because people call it the 'Ghetto' [student] assume that should be living in bad housing." Pepler says the real challenge is getting students to stop accepting substandard, below-code housing. She says students have to stop jumping into a lease because they believe that's how housing works.

But Saskatchewan, where the University of Saskatchewan is located, does have a housing shortage. Along with Alberta, which now has the most rising prices and demand that outpaces supply. "Students often feel pressured to accept less than they're entitled to," says Jason Pepler, president of the University of Saskatchewan Students' Union. "They worry they're going to be on the street."

But even in this volatile rental market, Pepler warns students against making into a lease. There are, he says, many housing options. This summer, there were concerns that the fall term would bring more students than traditional student housing could accommodate, there was talk of students hav-

ing to sleep in tents or five in one. "We got together with the university and they asked people to give and asked people to take their items and take their items in as leaders," says Pepler. Over 700 Saskatoon residents responded.

Regardless of what is in the country you end up going to school, how can you avoid living in a place worthy of the Golden Cockroach? Most universities have off-campus housing offices, and many student unions offer similar services. Start there. Many offer checklists, housing tips and information on landlords. Some even have programs to certify housing. This has recently passed inspection.

The key to getting the right place is to know what to look for, and take your time. "Look at the place, and then go back to talk to the current tenants without the landlord present," says Pepler, "to make sure you get the full story." And plan ahead. Think about next year, now. "Don't wait until February," says Pepler, when midterms, reading week and the pressures of second semester will leave you pressed for time and options.

Check to see that the smoke and carbon monoxide detectors are in working order



DUBIOUS ACHIEVEMENT AWARD: 286 QUEEN ST. (ABOVE) EARNED THE GOLDEN COCKROACH FOR MOULD, SLANTED FLOORS AND A FLY-INFESTED FAN

(Some houses are classified as rooming houses and are often required to have smoke detectors in each room, that is more than one set on the event of a fire, and that there is a kitchen fire extinguisher.) Look for evidence of pests such as cockroaches and mice. Mould, mildew, or signs of water damage could indicate a leaky roof.

The most important question to ask yourself: "Can I stand here?" If the answer is

no, then it's probably not worth renting. After you find a good place, you will sign a lease. Most leases will be one year contracts, with renewals you will only live there for eight months of the school

year. If the landlord says utilities are included, make sure the lease spells out which utilities (heat, water, hydro, cable Internet, etc.). Find out if there are limits on sub letting; you may be able to find someone to rent your place during the summer. And when signing the lease, find out what steps you need to take prior to moving in: when do you need to vacate telephone, cable or fire alarm? Insurance is another item you may need: most students assume that they're covered by their parents' insurance, but that's not necessarily the case.

Be informed, so that you can make an informed choice. "You don't show up to your exam without studying," says Pepler, "so why would you spend more than tuition without educating yourself first?" ■

MORE ON THE WEB: Read Joey Coleman's blog at mashers.ca/blog/queensjournal



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UNIVERSITY RANKINGS

TOP STUDENTS

Student award-winners,
by university

LEADING FACULTY

Faculty awards and grants,
by university

STUDENT SURVEYS

What students say about
their schools

REPUTATION

What academics and
employers think

THE RANKINGS

Canada's universities, by the numbers

- Medical Doctoral rankings
- Comprehensive rankings
- Primarily Undergraduate rankings

RANKINGS BREAKOUT PAGES

- Students/Classes
- Resources
- Student Support
- Library
- Grades and more
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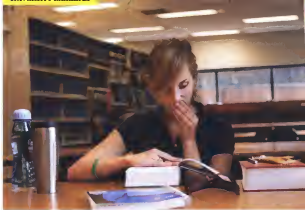


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UNIVERSITIES BY THE NUMBERS

What students think, what the experts say, and what the hard data tell about 47 Canadian universities

THE FOLLOWING PAGES hold a wealth of information to help students prepare for one of life's most important decisions: choosing a university.

Our coverage opens with four significant measures from the rankings: evaluating student and faculty quality, the success of students and faculty at winning national and international awards, as well as the faculty's record in securing research grants from the three federal granting agencies.

We follow with key feedback from people in the know: university students. They were asked to pass judgment on their universities; here are the results. We present three comprehensive surveys of student satisfaction: the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE), the Canadian Undergraduate Survey Consortium (CUSC), and the Maclean's University Student Survey. Published here are

responses to questions about the quality of teaching, the overall educational experience, and whether students would, if given the choice, attend their university again, or recommend it to a friend or relative.

Offering another point of view, we follow with the Maclean's representative survey, reflecting the opinions of nearly 800 university officials, high school principals and guidance counsellors from every province and territory, the heads of a wide variety of national and regional organizations, plus CEOs and recruiters at corporations large and small. Maclean's approached these individuals because their professions put them in a position to form opinions about how well universities are meeting the needs of students and producing quality graduates.

Rounding out the package are the 17th annual Maclean's University Rankings. Based

on the quality of the undergraduate experience, the rankings cover a broad spectrum, assessing university performance on 16 indicators across six major areas: students' classes, faculty, resources, student support, library and programs. We include additional information on graduate programs, faculty, graduation and retention rates.

All the numbers behind the rankings are presented on 17 pages of bookend charts everything from student and faculty awards and student/faculty ratios to spending on libraries, student services, and scholarships and bursaries. Also included is a listing of undergraduate awards and senior honors, from the country's best universities to the most, as well as a directory showing the locations of and student populations at all 47 ranked Canadian universities.

A key part of Maclean's expanded university coverage is the online Personalized University Ranking Tool. Users can go to www.macleans.ca/university and create their own customized evaluation of Canada's universities, using the same exclusive database of indicators behind the annual Maclean's rankings. The tool often uses the ability to sort out up to seven indicators, and then weights them according to the user's own preferences. In other words, personal students can create a university evaluation based solely on criteria that matter most to them. ■



CULTIVATING CURIOSITY: A student at the University of Guelph's Biodiversity Institute

WHERE ARE THE TOP STUDENTS?

Tallying winners of graduate and undergraduate awards

STUDENTS AT CANADIAN universities are eligible for a wide range of prizes and awards that recognize outstanding potential and accomplishment, as well as in many cases providing some much-needed cash—particularly for students working to pursue graduate studies. Where are these students and how will they compete for the top prizes?

This massing of student achievement looks at the success of the student body in winning national and international academic awards over a five-year period. A list of nearly 40 organizations with awards programs translates into more than 25,000 fellowships and prizes going to individual students over the course of five years. The list of prizes includes such prestigious awards as the Trudeau Scholarships, the Fulbright awards, Rosetta Foun-

dation Ambassadorial Scholarships, as well as scholarships from professional associations and the three federal granting agencies: the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada, and the Canadian Institutes of Health Research. The Institut canadien récompense Through its scholarships, the Canadian Engineering Memorial Foundation provides engineering as a career choice for women. The Canadian Northern Studies Trust provides scholarships to further knowledge of Canada's North. Awards from the Cambridge Commonwealth Trust, the British Council and the International Development Research Centre and the British Council provide exceptional students the opportunity to study abroad.

Students may be awarded a scholarship as they begin a new degree at a new university. In each case, Maclean's credits the university the student attended in the time of applying for the scholarship. ■



Student Awards

The five-year tally (2003-2004) of the number of students, per 1,000, who have won national awards

MEDICAL DOCTORAL

1	McGill	9.9
2	Queen's	9.9
3	UBC	8.4
4	Dalhousie	7.3
5	Toronto	7.1
6	Alberta	6.9
7	McMaster	6.3
8	Calgary	5.8
9	Laval	5.7
10	Ottawa	5.7
11	Montréal	5.1
12	Sherbrooke	5.0
13	Western	4.9
14	Manitoba	4.4
15	Saskatchewan	2.7

COMPREHENSIVE

1	Waterloo	7.2
2	Simon Fraser	6.8
3	New Brunswick	5.3
4	Carleton	5.1
5	Victoria	4.6
6	Guelph	4.4
7	Memorial	2.7
8	York	2.6
9	Concordia	2.4
10	Windsor	1.9
11	Regina	1.7

PREFERABLY UNDERGRADUATE

1	Mount Allison	4.9
2	Acadia	3.9
3	UNBC	3.0
4	Windsor	2.4
5	UPEI	2.3
6	St. Francis Xavier	2.2
7	St. Mary's	2.2
8	York	2.2
9	Lakeland	2.1
10	Brandon	1.8
11	Bishop's	1.7
12	Laurentian	1.7
13	Yorkville	1.7
14	Moncton	1.6
15	Nipissing	1.6
16	St. John's	1.3
17	Wilfrid Laurier	1.3
18	Cape Breton	0.9
19	Mount Saint Vincent	0.8
20	Ryerson	0.6
21	St. Thomas	0.3

*Indicates the full coverage of the methodology page 100

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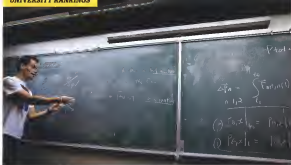
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HAVING MATH MAKE SENSE: Simon Fraser professor takes a first-year class through the numbers

WHO HAS THE BEST PROFS?

A look at Maclean's measures of research and teaching quality

A UNIVERSITY'S STRENGTH is built on its faculty. Strong professors inspire, as well as instruct, their students. And most universities also pride in having two important roles: teaching and research. Which universities get top marks as measured by the three performance indicators Maclean's uses to assess the caliber of faculty?

Each year, Maclean's collects information on more than 40 national and international awards from agencies and organizations that honour and reward faculty excellence in our

universities across the country. Some, such as the Society for Teaching and Learning in Higher Education through its 3M Teaching Fellowships, Alan Blouin and Christopher Knapp awards, recognize the importance of awarding teaching. Others, such as the distinguished Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council's Gerhard Herzberg Gold Medal, the Canada Council for the Arts Molson and Killam prizes, and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council's Gold Medal for Achievement in Research, reward and foster outstanding research with generous cash prizes. NSERC's Herzberg Medal guarantees the winner \$1 million in research funding over five years. Other prestigious awards include the Royal Society of Canada awards,

the Steacie prize, the Telfair prize and the Guggenheim Fellowship.

As another measure of faculty strength, Maclean's examines the success of full-time professors in securing peer-reviewed research grants from each of the three major federal granting agencies: the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada, and the Canadian Institutes of Health Research. Maclean's takes into account both the number and the dollar value received. (These research figures do not include funding for the Canada Research Chair program, indirect costs or institutional grants.) Grants are reported based on awards to the primary investigator. ■

DIVE IN: University of Western Ontario students getting their feet wet in a watershed hydrology course, learn class at Blithely's



PHOTOGRAPH BY BRUCE MAYER; PHOTOGRAPH BY VIGOR; PHOTOGRAPH BY MCKINLEY

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Faculty Awards

The five-year tally (2002-2006) of the number of full-time professors, per 1,000, who have won national awards.

MEDICAL DOCTORAL	
1 Queen's	13.6
2 Toronto	10.5
3 UBC	9.4
13 McGill	9.4
5 Alberta	8
6 Montreal	5.9
47 Dalhousie	5.1
47 Ottawa	5.1
48 McMaster	4.8
10 Saskatchewan	3.2
11 Laval	3.2
111 Western	3.2
13 Sherbrooke	2.7
14 Calgary	2.4
15 Manitoba	1.3

COMPREHENSIVE	
1 Simon Fraser	6.3
3 Waterloo	5.9
3 Victoria	4.4
4 York	4.3
5 Carleton	2.4
6 New Brunswick	2.3
7 Memorial	1.9
8 Windsor	1.6
19 Concordia	1.3
19 Guelph	1.3
11 Regina	1.2

PRIMARILY UNDERGRADUATE	
1 Trent	5.2
2 Mount Saint Vincent	4.8
3 UNBC	3.7
4 Mount Allison	3
5 UPEI	2.9
14 Brandon	2.8
16 St. Francis Xavier	2.5
8 Wilfrid Laurier	2
9 Brock	1.7
10 Saint Mary's	1.5
11 Ryerson	1.4
12 Lethbridge	1.1
13 Acadia	0.9
113 Saint Mary's	0.9
115 Lakehead	0.8
115 Winnipeg	0.8
17 Moncton	0.8
118 Bishop's	none
118 Cape Breton	none
118 Humber	none
118 St. Thomas	none

*Indicates 0 or 1 full description of the methodology page 101

†118, Thomas is weighted down reporting information for this indicator as it does not offer science programs. Its overall score is isolated on the remaining indicators.

Social Sciences and Humanities Grants

Below are the average size and number of peer-reviewed research grants from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada. The size of grants is listed per full-time faculty member; the number of grants is per 100 full-time faculty members. The ranking reflects a weighted average of the two.

MEDICAL DOCTORAL	
1 McGill	\$15,409 30.8
1 UBC	\$6,345 27.74
3 Montreal	12,307 30.96
4 Ottawa	10,086 28.18
5 Toronto	11,395 30.85
6 McMaster	11,611 29.68
7 Alberta	12,200 23.06
8 Laval	10,718 25.04
9 Queen's	8,771 25.23
10 Western	9,284 18.48
11 Manitoba	8,828 16.77
12 Dalhousie	6,430 16.68
13 Sherbrooke	4,984 13.77
14 Calgary	3,749 13.69
15 Saskatchewan	3,802 10.71

COMPREHENSIVE	
1 Simon Fraser	\$12,848 24.36
2 Canada	\$6,123 24.52
3 Guelph	8,513 30.3
4 Waterloo	8,970 18.87
5 Victoria	6,334 16.76
6 Carleton	5,918 12.25
7 Windsor	7,265 10.79
8 York	4,892 18.58
9 New Brunswick	7,079 10.39
10 Memorial	3,794 8.67
11 Regina	3,204 6.02

PRIMARILY UNDERGRADUATE	
1 Saint Mary's	\$9,938 19.38
2 Trent	2,584 12.46
3 Mount Saint Vincent	7,004 7.32
4 Winnipeg	4,947 13.46
5 UNBC	3,409 10.78
6 Wilfrid Laurier	3,269 10.73
7 Macdonald	2,750 11.71
8 Lakehead	3,277 9.39
9 Brock	2,406 10.34
10 St. Francis Xavier	2,480 10.27
11 Acadia	3,633 9.43
12 Ryerson	2,445 8.77
13 UPEI	2,704 7.24
14 Mount Allison	1,913 8.08
15 Cape Breton	2,230 7.14
16 St. Thomas	1,465 7.53
17 York	735 7.07
18 Bishop's	899 4.9
19 Lethbridge	1,196 4.22
20 Laurentian	484 3.99
21 Brandon	0 0

Medical/Science Grants

Here are the average size and number of peer-reviewed research grants from both the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada and the Canadian Institutes of Health Research. The size of grants is listed per full-time faculty member; the number of grants is per 100 full-time faculty members. The ranking reflects a weighted average of the two.

MEDICAL DOCTORAL	
1 Toronto	\$161,453 173.28
2 Ottawa	186,576 160.33
13 McGill	114,354 147.94
10 Queen's	105,640 156.5
5 UBC	13,543 129.2
6 Montreal	90,220 119.64
7 Alberta	82,569 127.82
8 Laval	88,526 136.93
8 Western	74,729 117.87
10 McMaster	67,978 90.65
11 Calgary	53,705 88.44
12 Montreal	50,515 80.09
13 Dalhousie	44,847 81.64
14 Saskatchewan	51,922 71.68
15 Sherbrooke	42,227 65.58

COMPREHENSIVE	
1 Simon Fraser	\$115,947 104.85
2 Victoria	79,160 150.46
3 Waterloo	67,680 121.62
4 Windsor	65,899 103.34
5 Carleton	46,151 123.25
6 Guelph	63,837 99.75
7 York	64,234 104.56
8 Concordia	60,581 100.45
9 Regina	32,846 101.6
10 New Brunswick	25,923 87.5
11 Memorial	23,935 65.55

PRIMARILY UNDERGRADUATE	
1 Trent	\$15,245 125.48
2 Lethbridge	43,994 138.33
3 Wilfrid Laurier	30,752 137.25
4 Brock	30,797 91.95
5 Mount Allison	23,096 104.06
6 Lakehead	27,126 88.89
7 UNBC	26,957 80.3
8 Saint Mary's	21,331 93.74
9 Winnipeg	25,430 79.17
10 Acadia	18,822 86.3
11 Laurentian	15,616 58.09
12 Ryerson	12,306 75
13 York	16,340 66.34
14 Cape Breton	9,247 53.16
15 St. Francis Xavier	10,657 46.85
16 Bishop's	8,369 41.87
16 Mount Saint Vincent	8,462 36.47
18 UPEI	9,227 32.46
19 Moncton	7,527 35.43
20 Brandon	4,587 22.92
— St. Thomas	N/A N/A



WAKE-UP CALL: Students at many large universities such as U of T above, say that their experience hasn't been entirely positive

STUDENTS GRADE THEIR UNIVERSITIES

70,000 students took part in three national surveys. Their responses suggest Canada's universities still have some homework to do.

BY SANDY PARRAH AND TOMY KESLER •
In 2004, the Ontario government commissioned former premier Bob Rae to prepare a report on post-secondary education, focusing on the quality of undergraduate education. Rae called on Canada's largest province to establish benchmark data on "key aspects of higher education," and for "evaluating and publicly reporting on quality and system performance." To this end, he

recommended that all Ontario universities participate every two years in a long-standing American student survey: the National Survey of Student Engagement, or NSSE. "I am a great believer that if you can't measure you really can't make change happen," Rae told Maclean's.

One way of measuring universities is to ask the opinion of their customers: the students. Are they satisfied with their education? Their

professors? Their choice of university? To try to answer those questions, we present the results of three national student surveys: the NSSE, a Canadian survey known as the Canadian Undergraduate Survey: Consensus (CUSC), and a survey conducted by Maclean's of the undergraduate experience—its Maclean's University Student Survey. More than 70,000 Canadian students participated in these three national surveys, across nearly every university campus. NSSE and CUSC each ask dozens of questions about specific aspects of the undergraduate experience—inside the classroom and beyond. Both surveys were commis-

FRONT ROW: 17 per cent of Canadian first-years have never asked a question in class

sioned by the institutions themselves. NSSE, an American survey that 18 major Canadian universities took part in 2006, focuses on student engagement or, in other words, the quality of the education. NSSE does include a few satisfaction questions, however, which we'll see featured on pages 84 and 85. The

new "engaged" they are with their schools, their professors and their peers. It is mostly about asking students what they did, not how they felt about it. NSSE does include a few satisfaction questions, however, which we'll see featured on pages 84 and 85. The

THE SURVEYS: WHAT THEY ARE, AND HOW THEY WERE DONE

You will find results from these surveys on the following pages: the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE); the Canadian Undergraduate Survey: Consensus (CUSC); and the Maclean's University Student Survey. The NSSE and CUSC surveys, which were commissioned by the universities, ask more than 100 questions about specific aspects of the undergraduate experience—inside the classroom and beyond—designed to provide universities with data to help them assess programs and services. On the accompanying pages, we list the responses to several key questions.

Launched in 1994, CUSC is coordinated through the University of Manitoba's department of housing and student life. In 2006, 25 universities took part, sending surveys to between sample of approximately 1,000 undergraduate students at each university. A total of 30,444 students responded.

The U.S.-based NSSE began as a pilot project in 1999 and is distributed to five-and-a-half universities. In 2004, 11 Canadian universities participated for the first time with 14,267 students completing the survey. Last year, that number had grown to approximately 36,300 students at 31 Canadian institutions taking part.

Nine institutions declined to join the annual Maclean's University Student Survey because they did not participate in either the 2006 CUSC or NSSE surveys. To provide student feedback from these institutions, Maclean's asked them to take part in a short survey using questions drawn directly from the CUSC questionnaire, addressing such issues as the quality of teaching and the overall educational experience.

Eight of the nine universities agreed to participate in Maclean's survey. CUSC working with Maclean's and CUSC methodology was also employed. Participants in the Maclean's University Student Survey were randomly selected from students in their first year. Universities contacted selected students by email, inviting them to participate. Large universities contacted 1,000 students; smaller universities, with fewer than 1,000 students in their graduating year, surveyed the entire cohort.

The survey was conducted online by Angus Reid Strategic and was active from Feb. 14 to March 12. To ensure that only those who had been chosen could take part, each individual was assigned a unique PIN. These PINs allowed Maclean's to identify students by university while guarding their anonymity. The Maclean's survey achieved a 43 per cent response rate, with 2,612 students from 10 universities taking part.

READING THE CHARTS

The charts published on the accompanying pages list the 28 Canadian universities that Maclean's ranks annually that participated in the 2006 NSSE survey as well as the 23 ranked universities that took part in the 2006 CUSC. For most charts, universities are listed in descending order, according to the percentage of survey participants who chose the highest level of satisfaction when responding to a particular "benchmark." When displaying the NSSE benchmark charts, universities are listed according to the benchmark scores associated with their senior-year students.

The NSSE and CUSC surveys include more than 150 questions, we have published eight (five from NSSE and three from CUSC) that are the most broad and sensitive of student attitudes. The Maclean's University Student Survey included eight of the broadest CUSC questions. In addition, we present five NSSE benchmark comparisons created by NSSE to compare performance in five key areas of satisfaction across the United States and Canada—taking part in the 2006 survey. For a listing of data from past NSSE, CUSC and Maclean's surveys, please visit www.macleans.ca/consensus and click on "Rankings."

NSSE surveyed undergraduate students in first-year and fourth-year.

The CUSC survey also looks at detailed aspects of the undergraduate student experience, but takes a slightly different approach. Unlike NSSE, it includes many questions asking students to assess how satisfied they are, and where they would like to see improvements. The 2006 CUSC survey was conducted among a sample of 1,000 graduating-year students at each of the participating universities.

There are nine Canadian universities that did not take part in the 2006 CUSC or NSSE surveys. To provide students with feedback from their students, Maclean's either this year asked those universities to invite their students to take part in a Web-based survey based on the CUSC, using CUSC methodology and CUSC questions. Eight of the nine universities agreed.

Of the 47 universities appearing in the annual Maclean's ranking of universities that fall, only University of Montreal did not take part in any of the three surveys. It is not listed in any of the charts. York took part in both

eight universities taking part. The results, when presented to all universities, were accurate within 1.52 per cent. (When not at 20 individual institutional accuracy varies from plus or minus 3.06 per cent to plus or minus 8.88 per cent.)

The Maclean's survey asked only eight questions from a much larger CUSC survey. As the Maclean's survey questions were asked within the context of the larger CUSC survey, the inherent question and/or response bias may have been different in both surveys. This may have had an impact upon the comparability of the Maclean's results to the CUSC results, since measuring the inherent question and/or response bias across the two surveys may have been more generalized questions. We have therefore chosen to present the CUSC and Maclean's survey separately.

National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE)

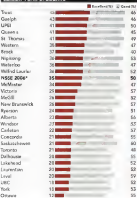
The NSSE survey asks undergraduate students of enrolled universities—as well as some broader ones—to assess how engaged they are with their schools, their peers and their peers. Hundreds of American universities, and a growing number of Canadian institutions, participate in the annual survey. Listed here are 38 ranked Canadian universities that took part in 2006.

How would you evaluate your entire educational experience at this institution?

FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS



SENIOR-YEAR STUDENTS



* NSSE 2006 benchmark reflects the overall result for 507 Canadian and American universities

NSSE and CLSC, but formerly mostly reluctant to make public these results. After Mclellan filed and pursued a request under the provincial access to information law, York released its data just prior to this issue going to press. So what do the surveys tell us?

Overall, students at smaller, undergraduate-focused universities say that they are generally more satisfied than students at larger, research-oriented universities. There are exceptions to this trend, with larger research powerhouses such as Queen's, Guelph, Western and Waterloo getting high marks from their students. But in the whole, smaller schools tend to do better than larger institutions.

When the CLSC survey asked students, "Has your experience at this university exceeded, met or fallen short of your expectations?" a substantial majority at all universities said that their expectations had been exceeded or met. However, at a surprising number of universities—all larger universities such as Calgary, Simon Fraser, Ottawa,

McMaster, UBC, Dalhousie and the University of Toronto Scarborough—around a quarter of graduating-year students say that their university experience had fallen short of their expectations.

Similarly, in the NSSE, in which both first- and fourth-year students took part, two broad satisfaction questions also showed high levels of positive responses, and not just at smaller undergraduate universities. When asked to "evaluate their entire educational experience," a majority of students answered either "most" or "good." However, while more than a third of students at many universities were willing to describe their educational experience as excellent, fewer than one in five said senior-year students at Dalhousie, Lakeland, Leamington, Laval, UBC and Ottawa were willing to give their education top marks.

When asked, "If you could start over would you go to the same university?" the majority of students at all universities answered "definitely yes" or "probably yes." Once again,

the trend favoured smaller universities, but some larger universities also did well. For example, fourth-year students at a number of universities with a wide range of master's and doctoral programs gave their schools grades above the NSSE average.

But by the time they reach fourth year, some larger universities were willing to say so, too. "Definitely yes," they would choose the same university for example. Ontario's score is at 15 per cent, down from 35 per cent in 2002. Even so, performance at Queen's and Western both declined below the first- and fourth-year from 66 per cent to 40 per cent. It seems that students, for whatever reason, generally less likely to recommend their school after completing their course of studies there. Notable exceptions are Brock, UPEI and Trent.

When asked on the CLSC survey about the quality of teaching at their university, at no institution did a majority of students choose "satisfactory." Students at smaller

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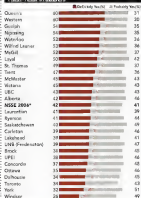
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National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE)

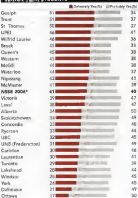
NSSE surveys are distributed to undergraduate students in their first and final years. In general, senior students are more critical when evaluating their university experience. While the majority of students would choose to return to their alma mater, the number drops—in some cases sharply—for students in their final year as compared to freshmen.

If you could start over again, would you go to the same institution you are now attending?

FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS



SENIOR-YEAR STUDENTS



*NSSE 2004 benchmark reflects the percentage for 100 Canadian and American universities.



campuses were once again most likely to rate the (highest level) of satisfaction. And, in contrast to a number of other leagues, arguably more prestigious universities—such as UBC, Saskatchewan, Calgary, Ottawa, Simon Fraser and U of T Scarborough—were least likely to agree strongly that they were satisfied with the quality of their university's teaching.

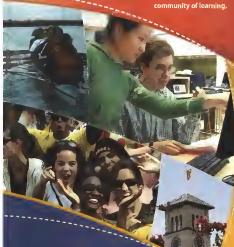
Though university students clearly have complaints about specific aspects of their learning experience, most report that they are "satisfied" or even "very satisfied" with their university experience. On the CLIC survey, 59 per cent of students indicated that they were "satisfied" or "very satisfied" with their "overall educational experience," while a full per cent said their university had "exceeded" their expectations. Another 59 per cent also said they were "satisfied" or "very satisfied" with their "decision to attend."

TALK TO ME Students at small schools are generally happier, but there are big exceptions.

PHOTOGRAPH BY JACQUELINE HALL

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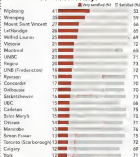
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Canadian Undergraduate Survey Consortium (CUSC)

The CUSC survey targets a different student population each year: all under-graduates, first-year students and graduating students. The 2004 survey, including 31 types of universities, covers students graduating this spring. Participating universities sent an extensive questionnaire to a random sampling of 1,000 students, asking for feedback on everything from academics to support services.

How satisfied are you with the overall quality of the education you have received at this university?

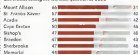


How satisfied are you with your decision to attend this university?



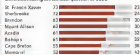
Maclean's University Student Survey

Maclean's conducted its own survey among the following universities asking the identical question as CUSC



Maclean's University Student Survey

Maclean's conducted its own survey among the following universities asking the identical question as CUSC



this university" in the Maclean's survey, more than 90 per cent of students said they were "satisfied" or "very satisfied" with the "overall quality of education" and with "their decision to attend their university."

Ottawa schools taking part in the NSSE also generated their concerns with a few Ontario-only questions. When asked which areas outside the classroom were most in need of improvement, Ottawa's first-year students chose "improving the quality of teaching practices." Areas outside the classroom that saw most need in need of improvement were "increasing contact with professors" and "working toward a better social environment." Areas most cited by upper-year students as

UNIVERSITY, NEAR, THEMSELVES: CUSC and NSSE have become essential diagnostic tools



PHOTOGRAPH BY CELIA DE COUSINS

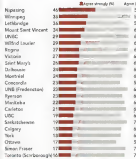
Canadian Undergraduate Survey Consortium (CUSC)

Quality of teaching and the overall learning environment are vital importance to the undergrads. Most students responded positively to questions assessing faculty, with three at smaller schools having the most satisfied, particularly when asked about professors being reasonably accessible outside the classroom and being encouraged by their peers to participate in class.

My academic learning experiences at this university have been intellectually stimulating.

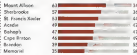


Generally, I am satisfied with the quality of teaching I have received.



Maclean's University Student Survey

Maclean's conducted its own survey among the following universities, asking the identical question as CUSC



Maclean's University Student Survey

Maclean's conducted its own survey among the following universities, asking the identical question as CUSC



needing improvement were "the quality of course instruction by professors" and "providing students more opportunities to undertake research with faculty."

So what do all of these results mean?

Over university where students give it among the lowest satisfaction ratings on the CUSC survey is the University of Manitoba. Across Iowa, students at the smaller, under-graduate-focused University of Winnipeg give their school among the highest satisfaction ratings. Steve Vanderhorst, a third-year public and science student at Marquette, calls these results "not unexpected. I think student satisfaction is higher at Winnipeg because everyone knows each other there." As to the question of the validity of the results, "I think the perceptions people have [of the two univer-

sities] are true, so people generally know what they are getting themselves into."

In a university with higher student satisfaction is better, however. "I think one should take student survey responses seriously," Carl Wieman, Nobel Prize winner in physics and director of the Carl Wieman Science Education Institute at UNBC, told Maclean's earlier this year. "But one should not automatically assume that the best policies are to follow everything students say they would prefer."

For example, argues Wieman, the finding that students at smaller universities tend to have higher satisfaction levels than those at larger universities may not tell us anything about the quality of education. "I know every body likes something more of course personal-

ized," says Wieman. "And that does happen better at small places, and so people are big part of what the actual education they get is better a set of different questions, and finally that's ask something students are accurately that as a person to evaluate, at least while they're going to school."

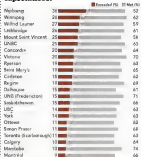
For NSSE, perhaps it, the key results are not the scores on the satisfaction questions, but the school's performance on the performance benchmarks, measuring "engagement." NSSE assumes that engagement is a commitment to quality, a measure that indicates that they and better learning is likely to be taking place.

Each university participating in the NSSE receives a benchmark report comparing scores from first- and fourth-year students on key

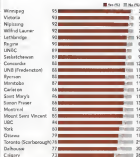
Canadian Undergraduate Survey Consortium (CUSC)

While students weren't shy about expressing criticism when answering detailed questions about university facilities, faculty and extracurricular activities, on the whole most showed satisfaction with their time at university. Students at small universities were somewhat more satisfied than their larger-school peers. Overall, 84 per cent would recommend their university to others.

Has your experience at this university exceeded, met or fallen short of your expectations?

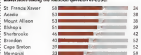


Would you recommend this university to others?



McGill's University Student Survey

McGill's conducted its own survey among the following universities asking the identical question in CUSC.



McGill's University Student Survey

McGill's conducted its own survey among the following universities asking the identical question in CUSC.



questions with those of other participating institutions, including all of the Canadian and American peers. The key questions are then grouped together in the broad benchmark categories, each with an overall benchmark score level of academic challenge faced by students, amount of active and collaborative learning, quality of student-faculty interaction, availability of enriching educational experiences, and supportiveness of the campus environment.

So what do the benchmarks tell us about the undergraduate learning experience at Canadian universities? For starters, Great Lakes universities at both the first- and final-year level compare quite well to their American peers in the benchmark areas "level of academic challenge" and "supportive cam-

pus environment." The academic challenge measure is made up of scores on questions such as "number of assigned text books," "number of written papers," and "coursework that emphasizes analysis of the basic elements of an idea."

Surprisingly, however, all Canadian universities participating in the NSSE scored below the NSSE benchmark average on the "student-faculty interaction" benchmark, and were also behind their American peers on "active and collaborative learning."

Why? In 1994, a handful of Canadian universities participated in NSSE for the first time, and showed the same low scores. It may come down to nothing more than resources. Canadian universities have fewer "two

entrance research and planning at Queen's University. Given the resource disparity, he expected his institution and others to be behind their American peers, but not to this extent. "What was our first-hand empirical evidence that showed increasing questions these aspects of learning that are directly related to student faculty interaction? Canadian universities do poorly on these benchmarks, relative to their American peers, because the Canadian institutions, with smaller per-student budgets, have fewer professors for each student."

A growing number of Canadian universities are taking part in NSSE, and Bob Racz is not the only one pushing a greater reliance on its findings. "We want to be really good and give the best that we can to our students



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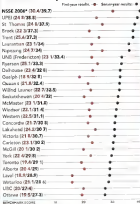
National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE)

NSSE created benchmarks to compare performance in five key areas of student engagement and learning—taking part in the 2004 NSSE survey. Level of Academic Challenge measures the intellectual and creative demands on students, measuring such things as the number of assigned readings, written papers and papers, as well as coursework that emphasizes judgment and transferring information into more complex interpretations. Student-Faculty Interaction measures the frequency of contact between students and faculty, as well as the quality of those interactions. Level of Academic Challenge measures the intellectual and creative demands on students, measuring such things as the number of assigned readings, written papers and papers, as well as coursework that emphasizes judgment and transferring information into more complex interpretations. Student-Faculty Interaction measures the frequency of contact between students and faculty, as well as the quality of those interactions.

Level of Academic Challenge



Student-Faculty Interaction



NSSE 2006 scores are based on 2004 Canadian Postsecondary Survey data.



and that's what drives us," says Harvey Weinstein, president of the University of Calgary. "It drives our behaviour, it drives our resource allocation, it's why we do things like NSSE, that's why we listen to what NSSE has to tell us."

Many universities prefer NSSE to CUSC, and are less comfortable with the kind of student satisfaction questions that CUSC asks. Deeper Queen's high-ranking on satisfaction surveys, Conway attributes that satisfaction scores aren't always useful, because they are highly dependent on the expectations that students have going in to a university. As a result, he says, questions of satisfaction may not be comparable among universities. "If high expectations are more or less met, then students respond accordingly. Or if they have low expectations and

SCHOOL SPIRIT: Tower there one in five at some universities gave their school top marks.



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National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE)

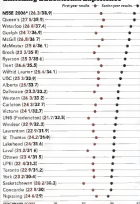
Active and Collaborative Learning assesses involvement and teamwork, measuring how often students work with classmates, make class presentations, or participate in community-based projects. Enriching Educational Experience measures that diversity and complementary learning opportunities enhance students' programs. This includes internships and co-ops, community service, study abroad, as well as a campus environment that promotes contact among students from different backgrounds.

Active and Collaborative Learning



*2004 NSSE represents results from 547 Canadian and American universities

Enriching Educational Experience



working happens to subvert that, then students also get relatively consistent satisfaction scores." Conway doesn't reject traditional questions, but one particularly well, with NSSE engagement scores, "but he doesn't view satisfaction scores as being as useful as the more "experiential" measures of NSSE. "Satisfaction readings have to be taken with a grain of salt," says Conway.

For example, students at a primarily residential university, with all the social life and student interaction that implies, might be more satisfied than someone at a commuter school. And, given that they attend a small, residential school, NSSE results might also indicate that they are more engaged. Conway cautions against reading too much of student satisfaction data. "On average, Canadian students are reasonably satisfied and that's

ENRICHING EXPERIENCE: Canadian students score below average on this NSSE measure

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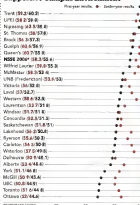


NSSE 2008 BENCHMARK COMPARISONS

National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE)

Supportive Campus Environment recognizes that students perform better at schools that cultivate positive working and social relationships between students, faculty and administrative staff, as well as providing support for academic and non-academic endeavors.

Supportive Campus Environment



NSSE 2008 represents results from 327 Canadian and American universities.



WHAT PROFESSORS? According to NSSE, the level of student faculty interaction in Canadian compares in way below the U.S. average.

a good way I wouldn't make buyout of what appear to be minor differences."

To help prove the students experience, and in response to the findings of these surveys, several universities are developing innovative programs and support services to help improve the student experience. In 2005, the University of Calgary established the Quality Money fund. This student government, in consultation with the student community, can direct money to projects that improve the student learning experience. Last year, the student union directed \$2.37 million to establish a variety of projects such as an undergrad research program in health and wellness, a class reduction program, and the establishment of a Teaching Excellence Awards program. UBC hired Nobel laureate William S. Kohn to study

and reform the teaching of science at the undergraduate level. And many universities are introducing new ways to deliver first year programs that give students a chance to experience small seminar type settings that are more often associated with upper year courses. These small learning groups are particularly important at large universities where first-year students often sit in large lecture halls with hundreds of others, rarely getting a chance to ask a question or discuss ideas with the professor or fellow students. In fact, 77 per cent of Canadian first-year students told the NSSE that they have never asked a question in class, compared to just three per cent of their American peers. All Canadian universities are trying to address this problem. For example, the University of Toronto has

First Year Learning Communities in the faculty of arts and science, bringing together groups of 24 students in the same stream of first-year courses in a regularly scheduled meeting facilitated by an upper year peer mentor. The meetings include social, developmental and academic programming. In addition, a staff and faculty adviser attend the meetings.

Even though universities rely heavily on surveys to improve the quality of the undergraduate learning experience, many universities are still reluctant to make this information public. "Where universities declined to provide this data, Macdonald found access requests through provincial Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy legislation. Several universities refused data as a matter of the rights. ■

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MAKING THE GRAD: Graduates attend reception day in the Arts Centre at Dalhousie University

ASKING THE EXPERTS

The reputational survey seeks opinions on university performance

BY MARY DWYER • University-based students are keen to learn as much as possible before deciding on which university to attend, gaining those who may be in the position to have an opinion worth hearing to. Take those opinions and make them the backbone of a new survey and you have the idea behind Maclean's reputational survey. What do people, whose professions put them in a position to form opinions about how well universities are meeting the needs of students and producing graduates ready to embark on successful careers, really think?

To find out what the professions think about the state of post-secondary education in Canada, Maclean's selected the opinions of 11,426 individuals across the country, asking for their views on quality, innovation and leadership at Canadian universities. Those surveyed included university officials at each ranked institution, high school principals and guidance counsellors from every province and territory, the heads of a wide variety of national and regional organizations, plus CEOs and executives at corporations large and small.

Respondents were asked to rate Canada's universities in three categories: Highest Quality, Most Innovative, and Leaders of Tomorrow. Most Overall represents the sum of the scores for all three categories. The survey forms remain participants that Maclean's does not expect them to be familiar with every university, and that we are asking them to provide their views only on

their own university. The reputational survey is a national survey that divides the country into four key areas: the western provinces, Ontario, Quebec and the Atlantic provinces. All respondents completed a national survey, university officials, principals and guidance counsellors also completed regional ones, allowing them the opportunity to focus on the region they knew best. The national and regional surveys are combined to produce the final results.

The reputational survey achieved an overall response rate of seven per cent. Broken out by groups, the response rates were: 21 per cent for university officials, five per cent for high school principals and guidance counsellors, five per cent for CEOs, corporate executives and heads of organizations. ■

those universities about which they have an informed opinion.

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TOP-NOTCH CARE: A four-legged patient is prepared for an MRI at U of Guelph's vet college



PHOTOGRAPH BY TOBIN COMPTON; PHOTOGRAPH BY JENNIFER DODD



NATIONAL REPUTATIONAL RANKING

Mclean's surveyed high-school principals and guidance counsellors, university officials, heads of organizations, as well as CEOs and recruiters at corporations across the country, asking for their views on quality and innovation at Canadian universities. This chart displays the results of the reputational ranking combining all the universities from the primarily undergraduate, comprehensive and medical doctoral categories into one group.

BEST OVERALL

1. Waterloo
2. McGill
3. Alberta
4. Toronto
5. McMaster
6. UBC
7. Queen's
8. Guelph
9. Sherbrooke
10. Western
11. Victoria
12. Simon Fraser
13. Ryerson
14. St. Francis Xavier
15. Saskatchewan
16. Dalhousie
17. Acadia
18. Calgary
19. Mount Allison
20. Wilfrid Laurier
21. Memorial
22. Laval
23. Mount Allison
24. Ottawa
25. York
26. Winnipeg
27. Lethbridge
28. Concordia
29. Manitoba
30. New Brunswick
31. Trent
32. St. Thomas
33. Saint Mary's
34. UPEI
35. Carleton
36. Regina
37. Brock
38. Bishop's
39. UNBC
40. Mount Saint Vincent
41. Muncion
42. Lakehead
43. Windsor
44. Laurentian
45. Cape Breton
46. Nipissing
47. Brandon

HIGHEST QUALITY

1. McGill
2. Waterloo
3. Queen's
4. Toronto
5. UBC
6. McMaster
7. Alberta
8. Western
9. Guelph
10. Victoria
11. Dalhousie
12. Sherbrooke
13. St. Francis Xavier
14. Memorial
15. Simon Fraser
16. Wilfrid Laurier
17. Acadia
18. Saskatchewan
19. Calgary
20. Mount Allison
21. Memorial
22. Laval
23. Ryerson
24. Ottawa
25. York
26. Manitoba
27. New Brunswick
28. Concordia
29. Lethbridge
30. St. Thomas
31. Saint Mary's
32. Bishop's
33. Trent
34. Winnipeg
35. Mount Saint Vincent
36. UPEI
37. Regina
38. Carleton
39. Brock
40. Nancton
41. UNBC
42. Lakehead
43. Windsor
44. Laurentian
45. Cape Breton
46. Nipissing
47. Brandon

MOST INNOVATIVE

1. Waterloo
2. Alberta
3. McMaster
4. UBC
5. Guelph
6. McGill
7. Toronto
8. Queen's
9. Sherbrooke
10. Victoria
11. Simon Fraser
12. Western
13. Saskatchewan
14. Calgary
15. Ryerson
16. Acadia
17. St. Francis Xavier
18. Wilfrid Laurier
19. Dalhousie
20. Memorial
21. Memorial
22. Laval
23. Ottawa
24. Mount Allison
25. Winnipeg
26. Lethbridge
27. York
28. New Brunswick
29. Manitoba
30. Concordia
31. Saint Mary's
32. Trent
33. Regina
34. UPEI
35. St. Thomas
36. Carleton
37. UNBC
38. Brock
39. Nancton
40. Mount Saint Vincent
41. Bishop's
42. Lakehead
43. Cape Breton
44. Windsor
45. Laurentian
46. Nipissing
47. Brandon

LEADERS OF TOMORROW

1. Waterloo
2. Toronto
3. Alberta
4. McGill
5. McMaster
6. UBC
7. Queen's
8. Sherbrooke
9. Guelph
10. Ryerson
11. Western
12. Laval
13. Acadia
14. Calgary
15. Dalhousie
16. Simon Fraser
17. Memorial
18. Saskatchewan
19. St. Francis Xavier
20. York
21. Wilfrid Laurier
22. Memorial
23. Victoria
24. Winnipeg
25. Concordia
26. Mount Allison
27. Trent
28. Carleton
29. St. Thomas
30. Ottawa
31. New Brunswick
32. Lethbridge
33. Manitoba
34. Brock
35. UPEI
36. UNBC
37. Nipissing
38. Laurentian
39. Windsor
40. Saint Mary's
41. Lakehead
42. Regina
43. Bishop's
44. Brandon
45. Nipissing
46. Cape Breton
47. Brandon

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OUR 17TH ANNUAL RANKINGS

Maclean's evaluation of overall academic excellence at universities across the country

BY DAVID BYER • With this year's ranking, Maclean's continues the mandate it established 16 years ago: to provide reliable, external information in a comprehensive package to help students choose the university that best suits their needs. The annual rankings assess Canadian universities on a diverse range of factors, from spending on student services and scholarships and bursaries, to funding for libraries and faculty success in obtaining national research grants. Maclean's surveys universities with a focus on the undergraduate experience, and attempts to offer an overall view of the quality of instruction and services available to students at public universities across the country.

Maclean's places universities in one of three

categories, recognising the differences in types of institutions, level of research funding, the diversity of offerings, and the range of graduate and professional programs. Primarily Undergraduate universities are largely focused on undergraduate education, with relatively few graduate programs. Those in the Comprehensive category have a significant amount of research activity and a wide range of programs at the undergraduate and graduate levels, including professional degrees. Medical Doctoral universities offer a broad range of Ph.D. programs and research. In addition, all universities in this category have medical schools, which also draw apart in terms of the size of research grants.

In each category, Maclean's ranks the institu-

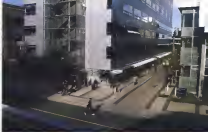
tions on a range of factors—on performance indicators—(in parentheses) are in parentheses. Primarily Undergraduate and Comprehensive universities are ranked on 11 performance measures. Medical Doctoral universities are ranked on 14. Figures include data from all federal and affiliated institutions. The magazine does not rank schools with fewer than 1,000 full-time students or those that are restrictive due to a religious or specialised mission.

The ranking process begins in the spring when thousands of reputational surveys are sent to university officials, high school principals and guidance counsellors, heads of organizations, CEOs and corporate executives across the country, asking for their views

OPPORTUNITIES McGill students on the lawn (top left), new facilities at the University of British Columbia enjoying fall on campus at Queen's

on quality and innovation at Canadian universities. During the course of the summer, Maclean's collates information on dozens of students and faculty awards from 45 administrative agencies.

This year, Maclean's revised its methodology, and the rankings are now based entirely on publicly available data. Students and faculty members were obtained from Statistics Canada, as was data for all five financial statements—operating budgets, spending on student services, scholarships and bursaries, library expenses and acquisitions—as well as total research income. For the social sciences and humanities research grants indicator and the medical/science research grants indicator, data for fiscal year 2006-2007 was obtained directly from the three major federal grant



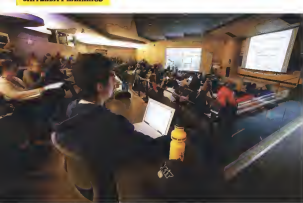
Medical Doctoral ranking

The Maclean's ranking takes a measure of the undergraduate experience, comparing universities in three peer groupings. Those in the Medical Doctoral category have a broad range of Ph.D. programs and research, as well as medical schools.

OVERALL RANKING		STUDENTS & CLASSES		FACULTY			RESEARCH		STUDENT SUPPORT		LIBRARY		REPUTATION		
	LAST YEAR	STUDENT ADMISSIONS	11 UNDERGRADUATE FACULTY RATIO	AWARDS PER FULL-TIME FACULTY	SOCIAL SCIENCES & HUMANITIES GRANTS	MEDICAL/SCIENCE GRANTS	TOTAL RESEARCH DOLLARS	OPERATING BUDGET	SCHOLARSHIPS & BURSARIES (% OF REVENUE)	STUDENT SERVICES (% OF REVENUE)	EXPENSES	ACQUISITIONS	HOLDINGS PER STUDENT	TOTAL HOLDINGS	REPUTATIONAL SURVEY
1	McGill	(1)	1	5*	3*	1	3*	2	11	2	10	4	0*	8	1
2	UBC	(2)	3	4	3*	2	5	7	3*	12	13	11	2	3	5
3	Queen's	(3)	2	12	1	9	3*	8	1	5	0*	10	1	1	6
4	Toronto	(4)	5	14	2	6	1	1	9	6*	0*	1	12	5	3
5	Alberta	(5)	6	10	5	7	7	4	3*	3	14	5	12	2	2
6	McMaster	(12)	7	7	9	6	10	2	7	8	5	14	3*	10	4
7	Western	(6)	13	11	11*	10	9	10	10	1	4	12	4	7	8
8	Dalhousie	(14)	4	8	7*	12	13	13	6	4	11*	13	11	9	14
9	Ottawa	(11)	9*	15	3*	4	2	5	12	6*	3	7	7*	11	14
10	Calgary	(13)	8	2*	14	14	11	11	5	13	15	3	3	6	11
11	Saskatchewan	(18)	16	3*	10	15	14	14	2	11	2*	4	5*	4	9
12	Laval	(9)	9*	9	11*	8	8	9	10	9	6*	8	5*	13	13
13	Sherbrooke	(7)	12	5*	13	13	16	15	13	10	1	15	9*	14	7
14	Montréal	(8)	11	13	6	3	6	4	14	10	11*	9	15	15	12
15	Manitoba	(15)	14	8	15	11	12	12	8	14	2	2	14	12	15

*Indicates a tie

PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF QUEEN'S, UBC, AND MCGILL



GETTING THE BIG PICTURE: Students take notes during a lexicology class at the University of Victoria.

ing activities, the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada, and the Canadian Institutes of Health Research. The Canadian Association of Research Libraries and its regional counterparts provided figures used for the library holdings indicators. All financial and library figures are for the fiscal year 2005-2006, except

student and faculty numbers are for 2004-2005. Beginning on page 112, you will also find display files of additional data, such as covering grade averages and graduation rates—information that, surprisingly, not all universities are willing to make public. Maclean's obtained the data in this section directly from universities, from university websites—wherever such data was available

and comparable—as well as from Canadian University Data Centre (CUDC), an arm of the Council of Ontario Universities, and the British Columbia Higher Education Accountability Database (BC HEADbase).

The rankings are weighted as follows:

STUDENTS/CLASSES (20% of final score) Maclean's collects data on the ac-

Weightings of Indicators

Maclean's ranks universities on 13 or 14 performance measures, according to peer grouping, and then allocates the appropriate weights to those measures.

STUDENTS/CLASSES	20%
Total Research Dollars	10%
Students/Faculty Ratio	10%
FACULTY	10%
Awards per Full-time Faculty	4%
Social Sciences and Humanities Grants	4%
Medical/Science Grants	4%
RESOURCES	16%
Total Research Dollars	8%
Operating Budget	8%
STUDENT SUPPORT	16%
Scholarships & Bursaries	8.5%
Student Services	8.5%
LIBRARY	16%
Expenses	9%
Acquisitions	9%
Holdings per Student	4% to 5%
Total Library Holdings	5%
REPUTATION	22%
Reputational survey	22%
Medical/Science category only	

count of the student body in winning national academic awards (40 per cent) over the previous five years. The list covers more than 40 fellowship and prize programs, encompassing 25,141 individual awards. The count includes such prestigious awards as the Rhodes Scholarships, the Fulbright awards, as well as national prizes from professional associations and the three federal granting agencies. Each university's total of student awards is divided by its number of full-time students, yielding a score of awards relative to each institution's size. Maclean's also measures the number of



SCENIC CAMPUS The quiet at Simon Fraser offers a place to study and contemplate.

full-time-equivalent students per full-time faculty member (10 per cent). This student/faculty ratio includes all students, graduate as well as undergrad.

FACULTY (16%) In assessing the caliber of faculty, Maclean's calculates the number who have over the past five years won major national awards, including the distinguished Killam, Melton and Science prizes, the Royal Society of Canada awards, the J.M. Teaching Fellowships and 40 other award programs covering a total of 529 individual awards (40 per cent). To scale for institution size, the award count for each university is divided by each school's number of full-time faculty.

In addition, the magazine measures the success of faculty in securing research grants from each of the three major federal granting agencies: the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada, and the Canadian Institutes of Health Research. Maclean's takes into account both the number and the dollar value received

last year, and divides the totals by each institution's full-time faculty count. Research grants are reported by how many are needed to the priority-review system on project, medical sciences and humanities grants (40 per cent) and medical/science grants (40 per cent) were tallied as separate indicators.

RESOURCES (16%) This section examines the amount of money available for current expenses per weight of full-time-equivalent student (40 per cent). Students are weighed according to their level of study—bachelor, master's or doctorate—and their program of study.

This year, Maclean's introduces a new indicator to broaden the scope of the search: open-ended research dollars (40 per cent). This figure, calculated relative to the size of each institution's full-time faculty, includes income from sponsored research, such as grants and contracts, federal, provincial and foreign government funding, as well as fee-funding from non-governmental organizations.

Comprehensive ranking

The Maclean's ranking takes a measure of the undergraduate experience, comparing universities in three peer groupings. Those in the Comprehensive category have a significant amount of research activity and a wide range of programs at the undergraduate and graduate levels, including professional degrees.

OVERALL RANKING		STUDENTS & CLASSES			FACULTY			RESOURCES		STUDENT SUPPORT		LIBRARY		REPUTATION
	LAST YEAR	STUDENT AVERAGE	STUDENT/FACULTY RATIO	AWARDS PER FULL-TIME FACULTY	SOCIAL SCIENCES & HUMANITIES GRANTS	MEDICAL/SCIENCE GRANTS		TOTAL RESEARCH DOLLARS	OPERATING BUDGET	SCHOLARSHIPS & BURSARIES (% OF INCOME)	STUDENT SERVICES (% OF INCOME)	EXPENSES	ACQUISITIONS	REPUTATIONAL SURVEY
1	Victoria	(3)	5	4	3	5	2	2	3	3	5	2	2	3
2	Simon Fraser	(5)	2	5	1	1	1	9	1	7	6	3	5	4
3	Waterloo	(2)	1	8	2	4	3	3	11	1	8	4*	7	10
4	Guelph	(1)	4	6	9*	3	4	1	9	4	3	10	1	7
5	Memorial	(5)	7	2	7	16	11	6	2	9	11	6*	4	2*
6	New Brunswick	(7)	3	1	6	9	10	7	5	10	7	1	11	1
7	Concordia	(11)	4	9	5	6	8	4	10	2	4	5	10	9
8	York	(9)	8	11	4	5	7	11	6	4	2	9	8	11
9	Regina	(8)	11	3	11	11	9	8	4	8	9*	4	6	10
10	Windward	(10)	10	10	8	7	4	9	8	5	1	6	3	4
11	Carleton	(6)	9	7	9*	2	8	10	7	11	9*	11	9	5

*Indicates tie.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY MICHAEL STOKES

PHOTOGRAPH BY MICHAEL STOKES

STUDENT SUPPORT (11%) To evaluate the assistance available to students, Maclean's examines the percentage of the budget spent on student services (6.5 per cent) as well as scholarships and bursaries (6.5 per cent). Expenditures are measured as they are reported to the Canadian Association of University Business Officers.

LIBRARY (8%) This section measures the breadth and currency of the collection. One variable received points for the number of volumes and volume equivalents per number of full-time-equivalent students (five per cent for Primarily Undergraduate and Core performance, four per cent for Medical Doctoral). The total holdings measurement was used in the Medical Doctoral category (one per cent), acknowledging the importance of extensive on-campus collections in those universities.

As well, Maclean's measured the percent age of a university's operating budget that was allocated to library services (five per cent) and the percentage of the library budget spent on expanding the collection (five per cent). In acknowledging a shift from the traditional library model—books on shelves—to service

transformation, Maclean's caps spending on electronic resources in both the library expense and acquisitions measurements.

REPUTATION (22%) This section reflects a university's reputation in the community at large. For the reputational survey (21 per cent), respondents rated the universities in three categories: Highest Quality, Most Innovative, and Leaders of Tomorrow. Best Overall represents the sum of the scores.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

In previous years, Maclean's rankings included additional indicators. The number has been reduced this year as many universities now refuse to disclose even such basic data as retention rates and average entering grades. Still, for those universities that have made public this data, Maclean's publishes those numbers here in order to provide students with the widest range of information possible.

As a measure of student quality, Maclean's presents incoming students' average high-school grades. This figure is for full-time students entering university in their home province. No conversion formula is applied to incoming grade averages to adjust for provincial differences or varying admission policies, although CGPA grades are converted from an R score to a percentage grade. As well, it should be noted that certain universities, to enhance accessibility, accept students with lower grades.



LED AT THE TOP: Classes in at Assiniboia (left). Mount Allison students gather in front of Hager Hall residence.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY TERRY BROWNE/STAFF

To provide a more detailed picture of grade averages, Maclean's displays grades divided into six grade ranges, extending from less than 70 per cent to 95 per cent and higher.

As a measure of drawing power, Maclean's shows the proportion of out-of-province students in the first-year undergraduate class, and the proportion of first-year international students.

In looking at retention rates, Maclean's also lists the percentage of full-time, first-year students who return in second year. While many factors can affect a student's choice not

to return—personal considerations, or a decision to transfer to a program unavailable at their home university—student retention, on the whole, reflects a university's success in keeping its students in-course.

Maclean's also measures graduation rates by tracking an incoming cohort of full-time, first-year undergraduate students to determine if they received a degree within seven years. The graduation numbers include students in three-year programs, as well as those in such second-entry programs as medicine, law and education—programs that have a highly selec-

tive admission process. As such, the number of these programs at any given university can affect the overall graduation rate.

Finally, in assessing faculty, Maclean's counts the percentage of full-time instructional faculty members who have a Ph.D., a first professional degree or a terminal degree in their field. ■

ON THE WEB: Customize your own ranking using the Personalized University Ranking tool at www.macleans.ca/university. Choose your own weights and indicators from our exclusive database.

Primarily Undergraduate ranking

The Maclean's ranking takes a measure of the undergraduate experience, comparing universities in three peer groupings. Those in the Primarily Undergraduate category are largely focused on undergraduate education, with relatively few graduate programs.

OVERALL RANKING		STUDENTS & CLASSES			FACULTY		RESOURCES		STUDENT SUPPORT		LIBRARY		REPUTATION SURVEY		
		LAST YEAR	STUDENT ADMISSIONS	STUDENT/FACULTY RATIO	ANNUED PER FULL-TIME STUDENT	BOOKS, JOURNALS & DATABASES GRANTS	MEDICAL/SCIENCE GRANTS	TOTAL RESEARCH DOLLARS	OPERATING BUDGET	STUDENT SERVICES (% OF BUDGET)	STUDENT (% OF BUDGET)	EXPENSES		ACQUISITIONS	HOLDINGS PER STUDENT
1	Assiniboia	(18)	2	4	13*	11	10	15	2	8*	4*	5*	7	6	3
1	Mount Allison	(22)	1	3	4	14	5	12	6	7	14	2	15	1	5
3	St. Francis Xavier	(7)	8*	9	6*	10	15	7	17*	12	9	13	4	10	2
4	UNBC	(16)	3	6	3	5	7	5	1	18	10	4	10*	20	14
4	Trent	(10)	6	15	1	2	1	3	14	1	3	14	18	14	8
6	Lethbridge	(14)	13	7	12	19	2	6	5	17	10*	5*	3	11	7
6	Wilfrid Laurier	(5)	16	16	5	6	3	14	15	3	10*	15	13*	13	4
8	UPEL	(3)	5	4*	5	13	18	4	6	14	13*	18	6	9	15
9	Windsor	(12)	4	12	15*	4	9	15	9	19	7	9*	10*	17	6
10	Laurentian	(16*)	13*	8	10	20	11	2	7	6	13	8	5	12	18
11	Lakehead	(15)	9	13	15	8	6	5	20	2	14*	11*	2	8	17
11	Moncton	(18)	14	5	17	7	39	13	10	15	14	7	6	3	16
11	Ryerson	(14)	20	20	11	12	53	15	6	10*	15*	10*	12	21	1
11	Saint Mary's	(19)	8	19	12*	5	8	11	15	10*	4*	11*	20	15	10
15	Brock	(19)	14	17	9	9	4	9	17*	6	2	16	13*	19	12
15	Mount Saint Vincent	(11)	19	10	2	3	16	12	12	13	18	13	9	4	16
17	Bishop's	(7)	11*	11	18*	15	16*	19	3	16	21	1	1	7	13
18	Brandon	(20)	10	2	8	21	20	18	13	20	6	3	21	2	21
18	St. Thomas	(8)	21	18	18	16	N/A	21	21	5	1	9*	17	5	9
20	Nipissing	(21)	15	21	18*	17	12	26	11	8*	10*	19*	16	16	20
21	Cape Breton	(13)	18	14	19*	15	14	8	19	21	6	21	19	18	19

* Indicates a tie.

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your skin after every shave.



LEADING THE WAY: University of Western Ontario professor conducting class

STUDENTS/CLASSES

Faculty members are the linchpin in a university's operation. Students look to their professors not only for the knowledge they impart, but for guidance and mentorship. Maclean's calculates the student/faculty ratio as a measure of student access to full-time faculty.

Student/Faculty Ratio

Maclean's measures the number of full-time equivalent students per full-time faculty member. Figures listed here reflect the ratio for all students, graduate as well as undergrad.

MEDICAL/DENTISTRY

1	Guthrie	20
2	Calgary	22.6
3	Saskatchewan	21.7
4	UBC	19.1
5	McGill	17
6	Sherbrooke	17
7	McMaster	16.1
8	Manitoba	15.4
9	Laval	14.7
10	Alberta	13.3
11	Western	12.5
12	Queen's	12.5
13	McGill	12.4
14	Toronto	12.3
15	Ottawa	12.1

OTHER

9	Carleton	20
10	Windsor	22.6
11	York	21.7

PEOPLES UNDERGRADUATE

1	McMaster	19
2	Brandon	15.3
3	Mount Allison	15.3
4	Acadia	14.7
5	UPSI	14.7
6	UNBC	12.7
7	Leedsbridge	12.3
8	Leamington	12.3
9	St. Francis Xavier	12.3
10	Mount Saint Vincent	12.3
11	Bishop's	12.3
12	Winnipeg	12.3
13	Salisbury	12.3
14	Cape Breton	12.3
15	Trinity	12.3
16	Wilfrid Laurier	12.3
17	Black	12.3
18	St. Thomas	12.3
19	Saint Mary's	12.3
20	Ryerson	12.3
21	McGill	12.3

COMPREHENSIVE

1	New Brunswick	13.7
2	Memorial	18.5
3	Regina	19.1
4	St. John's	20
5	Simon Fraser	21.1
6	Quebec	23.4
7	Cornwall	25.4
8	Waterloo	25.5

*Maclean's 2011 Fall description of the methodology.
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RESOURCES

The financial resources at a university's disposal have an impact on its ability to provide students with many valuable opportunities, and to conduct innovative research. Maclean's measures the size of the operating budget per weighted full-time equivalent student, as well as the amount of money available to faculty for research.

Operating Budget

Operating expenditures per weighted full-time equivalent student

MEDICAL DOCTORAL	
1 Queen's	\$12,557
2 Saskatchewan	11,990
3 Alberta	11,214
4 UBC	11,214
5 Calgary	11,069
6 Delaware	10,474
7 McMaster	10,419
8 Manitoba	10,371
9 Toronto	10,043
10 Waterloo	10,023
11 McGill	9,920
12 Ottawa	9,300
13 Sherbrooke	9,135
14 Montreal	9,021
15 Laval	9,545

COMPREHENSIVE	
1 Simon Fraser	\$13,947
2 Memorial	11,455
3 Victoria	11,220
4 Regina	11,116
5 New Brunswick	10,421
6 Noid	10,330
7 Concordia	9,828
8 Windsor	8,852
9 Guelph	8,707
10 Carleton	8,390
11 Waterloo	7,617

PRIMARILY UNDERGRADUATE	
1 UNBC	\$13,235
2 Acadia	12,414
3 Bishop's	12,233
4 Mount Allison	12,096
5 Lethbridge	11,662
6 UPEI	11,295
7 Laurentian	11,242
8 Ryerson	11,087
9 Winnipeg	10,995
10 Moncton	10,994
11 Nipissing	10,450
12 Mount Saint Vincent	10,252
13 Brandon	10,009
14 Trent	9,993
15 Wilfrid Laurier	9,576
16 Saint Mary's	9,362
17 Brock	9,233
18 St. Francis Xavier	9,233
19 Cape Breton	9,154
20 Lakehead	8,536
21 St. Thomas	8,279

Total Research Dollars

These figures show total income from sponsored research, including grants and contracts, federal, provincial and foreign government funding, as well as funding from non-governmental organizations.

MEDICAL DOCTORAL	
1 Toronto	\$321,356
2 McMaster	267,110
3 McGill	248,517
4 Alberta	252,680
5 Ottawa	243,514
6 Montreal	241,576
7 UBC	236,913
8 Queens	218,793
9 Laval	188,662
10 Western	140,150
11 Calgary	129,607
12 Montreal	118,643
13 Dalhousie	113,203
14 Saskatchewan	103,875
15 Sherbrooke	191,582

COMPREHENSIVE	
1 Guelph	\$192,587
2 Western	182,253
3 Waterloo	146,520
4 Carleton	112,754
5 Simon Fraser	103,620
6 Memorial	91,892
7 New Brunswick	81,647

PRIMARILY UNDERGRADUATE	
1 UNBC	\$45,596
2 Laurentian	38,308
3 Trent	37,371
4 UPEI	41,266
5 Lakehead	34,539
6 Lakehead	46,657
7 St. Francis Xavier	42,569
8 Cape Breton	40,600
9 Brock	33,221
10 Acadia	29,179
11 Saint Mary's	28,719
12 Mount Saint Vincent	25,956
13 Moncton	24,755
14 Wilfrid Laurier	22,789
15 Winnipeg	22,348
16 Ryerson	21,059
17 Mount Allison	20,697
18 Carleton	17,246
19 Bishop's	9,200
20 Nipissing	9,036
21 St. Thomas	7,312



MAKING A CONNECTION: An electric circuits course at Queen's.

STUDENT SUPPORT

The university experience should be more than just an education. Students need financial aid, as well as a variety of services and extracurricular opportunities. In these measures of student support, Maclean's examines the percentage of the operating budget devoted to student services and to scholarships and bursaries.

Scholarships & Bursaries

Percentage of total operating expenditures devoted to scholarships and bursaries

MEDICAL DOCTORAL	
1 Western	10.4
2 McGill	10.3
3 Alberta	10.2
4 Dalhousie	10.0
5 Queen's	9.9
6 Ottawa	9.6
7 Toronto	9.6
8 McMaster	8.9
9 Laval	8.5
10 Montreal	7.9
11 Saskatchewan	7.8
12 UBC	7.2
13 Calgary	6.6
14 Manitoba	5.3
15 Sherbrooke	3.6

COMPREHENSIVE	
1 Waterloo	11.9
2 Carleton	10.1
3 Victoria	9
4 York	8.4
5 Windsor	7.4
6 Guelph	7
7 Simon Fraser	6.8
8 Regina	6.4

PRIMARILY UNDERGRADUATE	
1 Trent	9.1
2 Lakehead	8.1
3 Wilfrid Laurier	7.4
4 Laurentian	7.2
5 St. Thomas	6.9
6 Brock	6.4
7 Mount Allison	6.3
8 Acadia	5.9
9 Nipissing	5.9
10 Ryerson	4.7
11 Saint Mary's	4.7
12 St. Francis Xavier	4.5
13 Mount Saint Vincent	3.9
14 UPEI	3.6
15 Moncton	3.4
16 Bishop's	3.4
17 Lethbridge	3.3
18 UNBC	3.1
19 Winnipeg	3
20 Brandon	2.7
21 Cape Breton	2.6

Student Services

Percentage of total operating expenditures devoted to student services

MEDICAL DOCTORAL	
1 Sherbrooke	5.8
2 Moncton	4.6
3 Ottawa	3.9
4 Western	3.6
5 McMaster	3.5
6 Laval	3.1
7 Queen's	3.1
8 Saskatchewan	3
9 Toronto	3
10 McGill	2.7
11 Dalhousie	2.5
12 UBC	2.5
13 Laval	2.2
14 Alberta	1.9
15 Calgary	1.8

COMPREHENSIVE	
1 Windsor	6.6
2 York	6.2
3 Guelph	5.7
4 Carleton	5
5 Victoria	4.6
6 Simon Fraser	4.5
7 New Brunswick	3.9
8 Waterloo	3.7
9 Concordia	3.4
10 Regina	3.4
11 Memorial	2.3

PRIMARILY UNDERGRADUATE	
1 St. Thomas	9.7
2 Brock	7.9
3 Trent	6.6
4 Acadia	6.4
5 Saint Mary's	6.4
6 Brandon	6.3
7 Winnipeg	5.8
8 Cape Breton	5.4
9 St. Francis Xavier	5.2
10 Nipissing	5.1
11 UNBC	5.1
12 Wilfrid Laurier	5.1
13 Laurentian	4.6
14 Lakehead	4.7
15 Mount Allison	4.7
16 Moncton	4.1
17 Ryerson	4
18 Mount Saint Vincent	4
19 Lethbridge	3.2
20 UPEI	3.2
21 Bishop's	3.1



THE WORLD AWAITS: How much support can this level student expect on the way?

PHOTOGRAPH BY GUY LAWRENCE

MACLEAN'S NOV 19 87

MACLEAN'S NOV 19 87

LIBRARY

Maclean's measures the percentage of the operating budget committed to library funding, as well as the collection's size and currency. Given the shift from a traditional model—books on shelves—to an electronic access model, Maclean's captures spending on electronic resources in both library expenses and acquisitions.



STUDY TIME: Preparing for mid-terms at Debevoise's Kileen Library

Acquisitions

To gauge the currency of resources, Maclean's measures the proportion of the library budget allocated to updating the university's collection, including electronic access.

MEDICAL DOCTORAL			
	Per cent		
1 Queen's	52	9 Concordia	34
2 UBC	50.9	10 Carleton	34.3
3 Calgary	50.6	11 New Brunswick	32.7
4 Western	49.1		
5 Laval	48.6		
6 Saskatchewan	48.6		
7 McMaster	47.6		
8 Ottawa	47.6		
9 McGill	47.4		
10 Sherbrooke	47.4		
11 Dalhousie	42.5		
12 Alberta	41.1		
13 Toronto	39.8		
14 Manitoba	38.6		
15 Montreal	38.6		
COMPREHENSIVE			
1 Guelph	53.1		
2 Western	46.8		
3 Windsor	45.7		
4 Memorial	44.9		
5 Simon Fraser	44.5		
6 Regina	42.8		
7 Waterloo	41.4		
8 York	40.8		

Expenses

A measure of financial commitment, this indicator shows the percentage of the university budget devoted to maintaining library services.

MEDICAL DOCTORAL			
	Per cent		
1 Toronto	6.8		
2 Manitoba	6.3		
3 Calgary	6.1		
4 McGill	6		
5 Alberta	5.9		
6 Saskatchewan	5.6		
7 Ottawa	5.4		
8 Laval	5.3		
9 Montreal	5.2		
10 Queen's	5		
11 UBC	4.8		
12 Western	4.7		
13 Dalhousie	4.4		
14 McMaster	4.3		
15 Sherbrooke	3.7		

COMPREHENSIVE			
1 New Brunswick	6.3		
2 Victoria	6		
3 Simon Fraser	5.6		
4 Regina	5.5		
5 Carleton	5.2		
6 Memorial	5.2		
7 Waterloo	5.2		
8 Windsor	5.1		
9 York	4.3		
10 Guelph	4		
11 Concordia	3.6		

PROBABLY UNDERGRADUATE			
1 Bishop's	49.2		
2 Lakehead	44.8		
3 Lethbridge	43.9		
4 St. Francis Xavier	42.7		
5 Laurentian	41.5		
6 UPEL	39.7		
7 Acadia	39.4		
8 UPEL	29.1		
9 Mount Saint Vincent	27.9		
10 UNEC	37.3		
11 Winnipeg	37.1		
12 Ryerson	36		
13 Brock	35		
14 Wilfrid Laurier	34.9		
15 Mount Allison	34.9		
16 Niagara	33.8		
17 St. Thomas	32.7		
18 York	32.1		
19 Cape Breton	31.6		
20 Saint Mary's	31.6		
21 Brandon	21.9		

Holdings per Student

These figures show the number of volumes in campus libraries, divided by the number of full-time equivalent students.

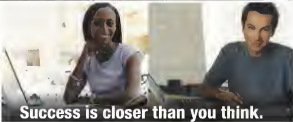
MEDICAL DOCTORAL			
1 Queen's	308	9 Carleton	137
2 Alberta	305	10 Waterloo	134
3 UBC	273	11 York	126
4 Saskatchewan	249		
5 Toronto	231		
6 Calgary	211		
7 Western	196		
8 McGill	190		
9 Dalhousie	162		
10 McMaster	152		
11 Ottawa	148		
12 Manitoba	140		
13 Laval	129		
14 Sherbrooke	123		
15 Montreal	96		
PROBABLY UNDERGRADUATE			
1 Mount Allison	391		
2 Brandon	377		
3 Moncton	359		
4 Mount Saint Vincent	261		
5 St. Thomas	275		
6 Acadia	234		
7 Bishop's	232		
8 Lakehead	192		
9 UPEL	181		
10 St. Francis Xavier	166		
11 Lethbridge	159		
12 Laurentian	136		
13 Wilfrid Laurier	120		
14 Trent	117		
15 Saint Mary's	116		
16 Niagara	111		
17 Winnipeg	100		
18 Cape Breton	96		
19 Brock	85		
20 UNBC	87		
21 Brynston	58		

Total Library Holdings

This indicator measures total holdings in all campus libraries, acknowledging the importance of extensive on-campus collections at Medical Doctoral universities.

MEDICAL DOCTORAL			
	In Millions		
1 Toronto	14,412		
2 Alberta	8,872		
3 UBC	9,296		
4 Queen's	6,059		
5 Western	5,991		
6 Calgary	5,170		
7 McGill	4,89		
8 Saskatchewan	4.3		
9 Moncton	4,184		
10 Ottawa	4,051		
11 Laval	3,738		
12 McMaster	3,157		
13 Manitoba	3,133		
14 Dalhousie	2,221		
15 Sherbrooke	1,787		

Holdings in millions. Full description of the methodology, page 100



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GRADES AND MORE

Grades are a strong indication of student quality and potential. Maclean's presents two measures of entering grades: the overall grade averages of incoming first-year students, and a breakdown by ranges. Other measures on the following pages include the percentage of first-year students who return for a second year, and the proportion who graduate in a reasonable time. As well, Maclean's measures the number of full-time faculty with a Ph.D., professional or terminal degree.



Average Entering Grade

Here are the average final-year grades of full-time, first-year students entering from a high school in Quebec's CEGEP system. Grades are for students entering university in their home province in fall 2006.

GRADE	GRADE
McGill	89.2%
Queen's	88.2%
Montréal	88%
Salisbury	87.7%
Waterloo	85.4%
Simon Fraser	86.1%
Western	86%
Acadia	84.2%
Mount Allison	84.4%
St. Francis Xavier	84.4%
Cape Breton	84.2%
McMaster	84.1%
Bishop's	84%
Regina	84%
Victoria	83.5%
St. Thomas	83.5%
Toronto	83.4%
New Brunswick	83.2%
Guelph	83%
UNBC	82.9%
Ottawa	82.7%
Winnipeg	82.4%
Carleton	82.1%
UPEI	82.1%
Mount Saint Vincent	82%
York	80%
Wilfrid Laurier	81.8%
Saint Mary's	80.8%
Memorial	80%
Lethbridge	79.9%
Ryerson	79.4%
Windsor	79.9%
Laurentian	79.4%
Brock	79%
Memorial	75.7%
Lakeland	76%
Ther	77.9%

Grade Distribution

Below is a breakdown of average entering grades showing the percentage of students who entered with grades in each of the following ranges:

	LESS THAN 70%	70 TO 74.9%	75 TO 79.9%	80 TO 84.9%	85 TO 89.9%	90 TO 94.9%	95% OR MORE
Acadia	2.7	5.7	17	18.2	28.5	22.7	5.3
Bishop's	0.6	2.5	28.7	26.1	29.5	18	1.2
Brock	5.5	29.6	28.7	27.5	14	5.2	0.6
Cape Breton	3.8	8.3	17	20.6	22.2	22.6	5.5
Carleton	0.4	12.8	23.6	27.7	21.9	10.9	2.6
Guelph	0	1	29	36	24	9	1
Lakeland	8.7	27.6	24.3	20.3	12.6	4.8	1.6
Laurentian	6	19	22	31	15	5	1
Lethbridge	6.2	19.5	24.3	22.2	16.5	9.3	2
McGill	0	0	8	8.8	44.6	39.1	7.4
McMaster	0	0	22.1	35.2	23.9	13.3	3.5
Memorial	2	24.6	26	23.7	16.7	4.4	0.8
Montréal	0	0.3	3.9	20.3	33.9	36.1	5.5
Mount Allison	1.6	10.4	12.7	23.7	26.2	15.9	7.5
Mount Saint Vincent	4.8	12.2	21.8	27	16.5	12.9	2.9
New Brunswick	3.9	8.6	25.5	23.6	24.1	15	4.2
Ottawa	4.1	14.5	23.4	32.1	14.7	6.9	4
UNBC	2.4	11.4	26.7	21.6	20.7	16.3	4.6
Ottawa	1.5	13	25.6	26.1	32	14.1	2.6
UPEI	4.3	10.2	21.1	26.4	19.5	14.1	4.1
Queen's	0	0	1.7	19.3	34.1	34.6	10.1
Regina	5.9	7.9	16.1	19.1	22.4	20.1	8.5
Ryerson	0.6	21.3	30.4	27.4	15.1	5.1	0.3
St. Francis Xavier	1.3	7.2	16	29.6	23.9	17.5	4.3
Saint Mary's	7.5	14.5	19.4	24.5	19.2	19.4	2.5
St. Thomas	0	12.9	19.8	36.9	38.3	17.2	5.9
Salisbury	0	3.9	9.8	17.7	27.9	28.4	12.7
Ther	12	26.7	19.4	20.1	14.6	6.8	0.4
Victoria	0.2	5.6	23.8	27.1	25.9	13.7	3.5
Waterloo	0.1	1.2	12.3	22.7	38	24.9	7.9
Western	0	0.3	7.4	33.8	36	19	3.4
Wilfrid Laurier	0.3	11.8	25.5	32.6	21.5	7.1	1.3
Windsor	1.4	26.4	28.9	25.5	13.4	7.2	2.1
Winnipeg	10.2	18.7	13.5	19.8	21.9	17.1	4.5
York	0	5.9	28.7	29.9	17.9	11.3	1.2

Full description of the methodology, page 186.

IT'S HOLIDAY TIME.

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ROGERS

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Proportion Who Graduate

The graduation rate tracks undergraduate students to determine if they received a degree within seven years. Below are the percentages of full-time, first-year students in fall 1992 who graduated by 2004.

	PER COUNT		PER COUNT
Queen's	80.5	Saskatchewan	69.9
Cape Breton	87.6	Yuk	68.3
McGill	83.7	Manitoba	68.1
Memorial	83.7	Ryerson	67.6
McMaster	80.8	Western	66.7
Toronto	80.1	Laurier	65.7
Guelph	79.3	Ther	64.3
Waterloo	79.3	Acadia	64
Wilfrid Laurier	78.7	Mount Saint Vincent	63.1
Western	78.3	Carleton	61.8
Chicopee	73.2	St. Francis Xavier	61.5
Bishop's	74.4	Mount Allison	59.1
LeHavre	74.4	Windsor	55.5
Saint Mary's	74	UNBC	55.4
Windsor	73.7	Bergin	54.4
Lakeland	73.5	Memorial	51.8
Brock	72.5	New Brunswick	51.6
UPEL	71.2	St. Thomas	49.6



ACTING DILL, Measurement class at the University of Victoria

Student Retention

These figures show the percentage of full-time, first-year students enrolled in fall 2005 who returned to university the following year.

	FEI CODE	FEI CODE	FEI CODE
Cowen's	93.4	Victoria	46.2
McClure	93.9	Nipissing	46.3
Wiesten*	93.9	Alberta*	48.1
Gushyk	93.3	Texas	45
Sent Mary's	93.1	Bahop's	43.8
Toronto	89.4	Capa Brenton	43.7
Likelihood	87.2	New Brunswick	43.4
Walford Laurier	83.8	UPPE	43.3
Montreal	68.5	Saskatchewan	42.7
Waterloo	55.5	Windsor	42.5
Canfield	48.1	Ausika	42
ERIC	46	Mount Saint Vincent	40
Brack	46	Winnipeg	39
Simon Fraser	46	Memorial	37.1
Norak	47.9	St. Thomas	37
Wichster	47.8	Regina	36.3
Ottawa	47	UABIC	36
Byers	47	Mount Allison	35.8
Laurier	46.7	Lehigh	35.5
St. Francis Xavier	46.3	*These figures show first-year players	

Out of Province (First Year)

Percentage of students from other countries, in full time

	PEI/CLM		PEI/CLM
Mount Allison	52.7	McGill	25.9
Bathurst	48.7	Saint Mary's	18.1
St. Francis Xavier	39.7	Acadia	16.1
Acadia	28.9	Moncton	16.2
McGill	26.6	Alberta	11.6
St. Thomas	23	Manitoba	9.5
Memorial	19.4	Carleton	9.0
Saint Mary's	17.9	Windor	8.9
UPEI	17.3	Bethel's	8.7
Queen's	15.3	Cape Breton	8.7
Alberta	15.2	UPEI	8.7
Victoria	14.5	Queen's	8.3
New Brunswick	14.4	Toronto	7.9
Lebanon	14.2	Waterloo	7.9
Cape Breton	13	Lebanon	7.2
Waterloo	8.7	Mount Allison	7
Ottawa	8.4	York	5.1

**International
(First Year)**

Percentage of students from outside Canada, by full-time:

	per cent
Manitoba	21.9
Saskatchewan	17.5
Alberta	17.2
Ontario	16.2
Quebec	15.6
Atlantic	10.3
Northwest Territories	9.5
Yukon	8.9
Nunavut	8.7
Canada	8.7
U.S.	8.7
Europe	6.3
Japan	7.8
Australia	7.8
Latin America	7.2
Middle East	7
South Africa	5.1

Faculty with Terminal Degree

The figure below shows the percentage of full-time instructional faculty members, as of fall 2006, who have a Ph.D., a first professional degree, or a terminal degree in their field.

	PER CENT		PER CENT
Gurpib	98.9	Acadia	99.4
McBili	98.3	Troxat	98.3
Queen's	97.3	Windsor*	96.4
Saint Mary's	97.0	Ottawa	95.8
Montreal	96.3	Wilfrid Laurier	95.4
St. Francis Xavier	94.9	Manitoba	94.4
York	94.4	Brack	93.9
St. Thomas	94.4	Lakeland	94.3
Saskatchewan	93.3	Winnipeg	94.1
Vicoria	93.2	Windsor*	93.4
Waterloo	92.8	Regina	92.4
New Brunswick	92.7	Laurier	92.4
UTSI	92.7	Ryerson	92.0
Carleton	92.6	Mount Saint Vincent	78.1
McMaster	91.3	Redeign	75.4
McGill	91.1	Carleton	73.9
Toronto	91.1	Nipissing	71.2
UMBC	90.9	Lethbridge	71.2

* References are the full title



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THE BOTTOM LINE

PURSING A UNIVERSITY DEGREE appears determination. And paying for the experience is not getting any easier. On average, tuition fees across Canada increased by 3.3 per cent, slightly lower than last year's mark of 3.2 per cent. New Brunswick and Quebec had the highest increases at 4.3 per cent, while Ontario and Alberta saw declines for increases of 1.4 and 1.2 per cent respectively. Quebec lifted a 15-year freeze on tuition, although residents of the province continue to pay the lowest average tuition fees in the country. Manitoba, British Columbia and Nova Scotia had small increases of less than three per cent, while fees in Saskatchewan



BISHOP'S STUDENT Quebec offers the lowest tuition nationally

and Newfoundland remained virtually unchanged. And as in customary, international students took it on the chin again this year, as their fees rose by a national average of 4.5 per cent.

Two provinces headed in the opposite direction. Prince Edward Island slashed tuition by a whopping 8.1 per cent, and Nova Scotia reduced fees by 8.5 per cent. Despite the decrease, Nova Scotia remains the most expensive province in which to study, with an average tuition fee of \$3,176—and out of province students are not eligible for the 1500 provincial reduction program.

When it comes to compulsory auxiliary fees, students across the country are paying more this year, especially in Nova Scotia, Quebec, Saskatchewan and British Columbia. *—Gerson A. Fernandez-Vincent*

All fees in the accompanying chart are for undergraduate arts and science programs as of September 2007. The rates of several universities appear twice: Quebec institutions where out-of-province fees apply and universities where there are different fees for arts programs and science programs.

*As of 2007, tuition at Nova Scotia universities has been reduced for residents of all provinces. Out of province students must pay \$10,000 more each year than the tuition fees listed here.

†Compulsory auxiliary fees can vary according to program, as is the case of \$410 for the average student studying at the University of Toronto pay \$410—about \$410 less than students at other major Vancouver campuses. Auxiliary fees include student health plan fees. If students are covered by another student plan, they can opt out of most health plans, which range in cost from \$44 to \$414.

UNIVERSITY	COMPULSORY Tuition and Auxiliary Fees	TOTAL
Shenandoah (Quebec students)	\$1,746	\$1,746
Laval (Quebec students)	1,746	1,746
Montréal (Quebec students)	1,746	1,746
Bishop's (Quebec students)	1,746	1,746
Memorial	2,550	2,550
Concordia (Quebec students)	1,746	1,746
Brandon (Arts)	2,730	2,730
McGill (Quebec students)	1,746	1,746
Brandon (Science)	2,965	2,965
Windsor (Arts)	2,911	2,911
Manitoba	2,970	2,970
Windsor (Science)	3,195	3,195
UPEQ (Arts)	4,257	4,257
UPEQ	4,277	4,277
St. Thomas	4,576	4,576
Laurier (Arts)	4,525	4,525
Simon Fraser	4,533	4,533
Saskatchewan (Arts)	4,616	4,616
Carleton	4,534	4,534
Regina (Arts)	4,581	4,581
Lethbridge	4,473	4,473
Ottawa	4,544	4,544
Saskatchewan (Science)	4,529	4,529
Victoria	4,491	4,491
Windsor	4,460	4,460
UPEQ	4,443	4,443
Thompson	4,569	4,569
Alberta	4,486	4,486
Brock	4,547	4,547
Regina (Science)	4,489	4,489
Nipissing	4,515	4,515
Lethbridge	4,393	4,393
Montréal (out of province students)	4,651	4,651
Windsor	4,521	4,521
Trent	4,569	4,569
Queens	4,579	4,579
Waterloo	4,582	4,582
Calgary	4,740	4,740
McMaster	4,514	4,514
USC (Science)	4,683	4,683
McMaster	4,700	4,700
Wilfrid Laurier	4,589	4,589
York	4,568	4,568
Cape Breton*	5,190	5,190
Queens	4,565	4,565
Toronto	4,570	4,570
Saint Mary's (Arts)†	5,080	5,080
Shenandoah (out of province students)	5,141	5,141
Saint Mary's (Science)†	5,180	5,180
Laval (out of province students)	5,161	5,161
Mount Saint Vincent (Arts)†	5,150	5,150
New Brunswick	4,482	4,482
Bishop's (out of province students)	5,141	5,141
Mount Saint Vincent (Science)†	5,251	5,251
Dalhousie (Arts)†	5,230	5,230
St. Francis Xavier†	5,235	5,235
Concordia (out of province students)	5,141	5,141
McGill (out of province students)	5,141	5,141
Mount Allison	4,720	4,720
Dalhousie (Science)†	4,340	4,340
Assault†	4,132	4,132

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HAIL CHIEF PALEFACE

John Thunder runs what some view as a 'model reserve.' He has just one problem: the Indians.

BY NANCY MACDONALD • One recent fall weekend, Chief John Thunder was gearing up to break ground on a \$12.6-million hotel and spa at Buffalo Point First Nation, an enterprising band of the Woods. Hapagunap-fert band, one of the most in Manitoba, is also among the province's richest, with an 18-hole golf course, a 375-room marina, and tiger-inspired offices by brand name and not just in name. At 47, the 47-year-old chief—39 years into his mandate—has a new degree from the U.S., and the French cuffs to match.

There's another reason this native leader stands out. In these parts, the former British Columbia band is known as the "Hail Chief." The moniker refers to his pale face, clad with anger. (Thunder, they say, has a temper

to rival the name.) "It's about who I'm not," he says, voice thick with emotion. "I've died for goodness, I've made my own anger, my headless. I was raised up that way. That's who I am."

Thunder inherited the chieftaincy from his dad, a white American adopted into the Ojibwa community as a young boy, and in 1959 named on the bare by his children's Aboriginal name, then chief Warren "Shaw" Thunder. "Dad felt he didn't have the blood right—not being Indian," says Thunder, who's never struggled with this dilemma. "Growing up, I was beat up by whites because I was an Indian," he says—and vice versa. "I went to an Indian hockey school in Winnipeg one year, and the whole week long, me and my brother had this... I kicked out of us, because we looked white." Through his father, then, his blood will and their four children around Indian man. One day, he'll name one of his kids, aged 15 to 21, chief. (But the line says their action they marry an Aboriginal person, which Thunder thinks is unlikely

THE WHITE CHIEF'S blond wife and kids all have status cards

the status. Thunder's children inherited from their grandfather will die with them, according to rules laid out in the Indian Act.)

Thunder has the close-knit support of Manitoba's Aboriginal leadership. "It's not the color of your skin, but the color of your blood," argues Dennis White Bird, head of the Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba, who adds that Thunder has created a "model reserve" at Buffalo Point. Indeed, native brass consider Thunder—a white man—as a role model. He's won 12 million dollars in annual revenue for his band—a "leader by example," says Grand Chief Ivan Egan of the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs. "If we had ever not been waiting for government to assist in our development, we'd look just like the rest of them," says Thunder, who is also chair of the South-eastern Manitoba Tribal Council. Ultimately, he wants out of the Indian Act, to govern as he sees fit. "No more restrictions." And Manitoba chiefs are lined up behind him.

But closer to home, Thunder faces one problem that he's running his reserve unfairly. "The Indians are all stuck in a corner," says Don Sandberg, Aboriginal policy fellow for the Winnipeg-based Frontier Centre for Public Policy, who co-edited a 2004 Buffalo Point survey on Aboriginal governance. Indeed, the bulk of the nation's reserves are non-white outposts, numbering on 394 listed lands. "When you knock on doors, it's like you're in white," says Sandberg. Most of the 94 bands in Manitoba, as elsewhere, are landless. They are grouped along a single dirt road in the southwest corner of the province. "Thunder calls it the residential area," says Bruce Coburn, one of 11, a pioneer with the so-called Indian Group of Seven. "We call it the segregated area."

The coxswain aren't so blame, say band members. "The development was supposed to help the people," says Don Kalaripach, whose brother Robert is the lone Aboriginal on Buffalo Point's three-person band council. Don, who lives off reserve in Minnesota, calls Robert a "broken Indian," because he doesn't genuinely participate in decision making. "We've never had a meeting or a referendum about whether we should be self-governing," says Coburn. "You don't like it? Too bad. If this reserve's doing well, why are the band members living below the poverty line?" (Sandberg, who says his brother-in-law is a lot bigger than most people. "Move off us now, working," says Don Kalaripach.)

But there's a broader issue, too. Like some advocates for Aboriginal self-government, Thunder chafes against the property restrictions set out by the Indian Act, which hinders the creation of an endogenous business class—

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HERE COMES THE SAVIOUR

Can Bob Rae bring the Grits together, even if they don't all trust him?

BY AARON WHEAT • Fetched by plane last week, Bob Rae was doing as you might expect—setting up an airport, awaiting a flight to Ottawa, where he was to speak at the fourth International Conference on Federalism. The morning papers were full of fresh accounts of Liberal dysfunction, anonymous sources debating other anonymous sources, and Rae was doing his best to sound like the statement he gave to the press. “I think we’re in pretty good shape. I think things are coming together around the approach that we’re taking quite well. You know, a lot of the difficulties have been building for a long time. But I think that they’re much exaggerated, as one would anticipate, by

the media,” he says. “Usually inside the government of course everything that we intend and I don’t recognize the message.”

He says this all very modestly, then, because he’s a politician, and second, because he’s certainly not wrong, namely his own denouement of the provincial NDP in Ontario a decade ago. “These things happen. But I don’t let it bother me,” he says. “I’ve been through one crash. I’ve been through too many crashes in my life to get worked up about that kind of thing. I think we’re doing fine.”

To his benefit or ultimate demise, Liberal Leader Stéphane Dion has not let the inevitable suspicion of rivalry and division slip lengths from his tongue. Responsibility upon his rivals. Michael Ignatieff, who finished with 45 per cent of the vote in last year’s leadership race, was once deputy leader. Jim Dwyer, Scott Brison, and Joe Volpe all occupy or will occupy the

“WE CANNOT WAIT for Mr. Rae’s decision on the unselected Rae his foreign affairs critic

tion floor battle, while Gerald Kennedy and Martin Hollnagel often represent the party on television. Rae, though, is the star man whose profile has expanded the most since he finished third in May 1997.

Soon after the convention, Rae was tapped to help shape the party’s new platform. Greg Kerr, a former president of the Young Liberals who supported Rae’s leadership campaign, was recently named the party’s new national director, replacing James Carroll, the estranged Dion ally. Rae’s brother, John, is considered a key adviser to the leader, and one of Dion’s first acts after arriving back in Ottawa this fall was to name Rae the party’s foreign affairs critic. “We cannot wait for Mr. Rae,” Dion told reporters when asked why he had handed an unselected official one of the Opposition’s key posts. Rae was also told to be one of those who convinced Dion not to bring the government down on the Throne Speech.

“Well, again, I think a lot of that speculation has been exaggerated,” Rae says demurely when the Throne Speech discussions are raised. “I think Mr. Dion listened to a lot of people. Because of my work on the platform I’ve had a chance to work with people and listen to them. And I’m going to keep on doing that. I mean, however I can contribute to the election of a Liberal government, I’m happy to contribute.”

Still, with Dion’s liberalism, everything is open to interpretation. Raise Rae’s voice and with the Liberal and you’ll be told that the game he and his associates have made any a source of conflict. “It will be very good to get him into the House, but he is the source of much of the current tension within caucus,” says one Liberal. “So I don’t expect him to calm things down either.” Like other supporters to another party official and you’ll hear only effusive praise, and relief that he’s involved.

In terms of the pros and cons of the party to jobs, it does say a very particular pattern,” says John Girdley, a veteran Liberal MP who initially entered the leadership race, but eventually supported Rae. “I know that after he became the leader, Stéphane Dion was meticulous about making sure that all the leadership candidates were given prominent roles. His office is an amalgam of people who’ve come from all over the place and I think he’s reached out to whatever groups of talent he can get in any of the leadership campaign.”

Certainly, Rae comes by his livability honestly. Over four decades, from 1981 to 1995, he rode the Ontario NDP from 15 per cent to 74 to 71. Seemingly disinterested in a politician, he none the less became a capable and diplomatic, convincing no peer in his Liberal

standing post-secondary education in Ottawa and investigating the Air India disaster. Once dubbed “Canadian January Carter,” he is not to have been a candidate, or at least one occasion, for governor general.

At the Liberal leadership convention, he finished second on the first ballot, but could not push ahead of Ignatieff in subsequent rounds and eventually lost to delegates. It’s currently the Liberal candidate in Toronto—Carter, where he is chosen to replace Bill Graham must be called on the next few months. Should he win them (seemingly unlikely), he will likely become critical to the party’s Quebec strategy. Not that the Liberals were worried. Mark Wornat, the former Conservative candidate at Toronto—Carter (now a close ally with party head quarters), suggested an interview with the Toronto Star that the government might actually like Rae to sit, the president of another party considering their leadership.

Godfrey, for one, was before that concept any theory “I would disagree that a strong leader who is confident of his own abilities and strengths could go as far as the other approach. If you think of that look about Abraham Lincoln called them of words, Lincoln proved his leadership by bringing in all the people who’d run against him and, in fact, created a powerful sort of players whose individual strengths were tremendous.” He says “I think Stéphane’s self-confidence was criticised by the fact that he chose Michael Ignatieff as the deputy leader. This is somebody who, if he was killed, would not have done that.”

Still, the grumbling continues, with an anonymous Liberal law firm complaining to a reporter that not enough MPs were being allowed to participate in QP. And with Pollack’s mention of a break in the leadership race, Dwyer’s party group took to the blogosphere to question his ethics in his book *Majority*. “The better by some of my colleagues, and by some of Liberal’s supporters, that going after a former Conservative prime minister is good politics is very disappointing,” he wrote. “It does nothing for Canada, for the problems of our citizens, or to build a better country.”

Rae is not much for the conventional punditry. He has been about to ride the horse campaign. He is quick to correct, for instance, any suggestion that Dion would attend last year’s annual “No, I don’t think so. I think the key thing is remember to that



ONE LIBERAL SAYS
RAE IS A SOURCE OF
‘MUCH TENSION’



WITH BISHOP (right) Ignatieff and his wife, Anne, Peter Rae, 49, his campaign office

there’s still a large body of people out in the general public who support the Liberal party and who identify themselves as wanting to continue to do that,” he says. “We have a party that’s been through a rough ride in the media and people taking some time to sit and we’re not only there or four points behind the Conservative side of the polling that I’ve seen. In significant parts of the country, we’re well ahead of the Conservatives.” (Holt, again, Rae has spent the last few years in Ontario, not the Liberals past four years behind, and an Ipsos-Reid survey gave the Conservatives an 11-point advantage.)

He mentions at first when asked what party’s ready to fight in election, but a pragmatic

when pressed about whether the Liberals could have safely brought down the government as the Throne Speech on the second anniversary. “Absolutely. I mean, that’s not the issue. The issue is, is it a time that makes sense to people? Does it make sense to do it right after a government has cut a bunch of taxes? Does it make sense to do it on the basis of a Throne Speech that is very vague?” He asks. “I think you have to find issues which make sense. And as well, there’s clearly a strong public desire, yeah, there’s concern that needs to be laid upon. And I think, quite frankly, when we find those issues, when we find that moment, that’s what will happen.”

None of this may sound particularly revolutionary. But then, the Liberals don’t necessarily need revolutionary as much as they need a few more voice votes to offset the Liberals. In fact, at the very least, they have someone capable of inspiring a hopeful vision of the future over the phone while he waits to board a flight to New Delhi. “The first thing is to have some of himself about every thing. And the second thing is to have a sense of perspective. And to recognize that there’s

an enormous tendency in Ottawa to see things as incredibly dark and almost hopeless times. And that’s not how most people live. This isn’t how most people make up their minds,” he says. “Everybody can get incredibly worked up about a motion or a resolution or a day and, finally, it’s gone after another day, and it doesn’t exist. So you really have to look at it and say, ‘How are we going to present ourselves in the next election, whenever it comes, in a way that will persuade more Canadians that the party’s actually come closer to representing their feeling and their vision about Canada in the face of the Liberal party. And I happen to think that that’s a good idea. And so we’ll have that’s all everything to play for.’”

Which way to the promised land?

The numbers still don't show a Tory majority. Is Dion safe after all?

BY JOHN GEDDIS • For all Stephen Harper's commanding aura, his Conservative caucus rattled this morning below the level of popular support they need to win a majority. Despite Stéphane Dion's lip-smacking, his Liberals have not won the lot of no votes in either of the two points scores open to dispute whenever leadership or policy decisions are being debated, but even if polls vary, and party strategists dissect them often like into quasi-scientific talk about "swing numbers" and crowing into the promised land called "majority territory," multiple opinion surveys and credible exit projections based on them don't lie, or at least not often.

It's all but impossible to gain access to the formulas the parties' own number-crunching algorithms use to convert leaders' polling data into the gold of forecasts about seats won and lost. But World's Largest University's Laurier Institute for the Study of Public Opinion and Policy applied its widely watched voter exit polls model to seven October polls for Maclean's Barry Kay, a political science professor at the institute, and the combined results of publicly released national surveys by four firms represented the voting intentions of about 300,000 Canadians. His projection based on that wide cross-section of opinion gave the Conservatives 124 seats in the House, up from 118 now, but still a full 20 shy of a majority. The Liberals, notwithstanding Dion's struggles, would actually boost their count just of 10 to 121 from 96 now.

This outlook might seem disheartening to any Tory who has been reading the most upbeat poll results for the party. Lyons-Rice has not usually found the highest Conservative support lately, most recently putting the Tories at 39 per cent in the week Finance Minister Jim Flaherty tabled his no-budget mini budget. That's just a point shy of the 40 per cent generally cited as the threshold for a majority, and far ahead of the Liberals' 28 per cent. But even Lyons-Rice pollster Daniel Bricker says Harper doesn't yet have a majority within his group. Tory support, Bricker notes, stabilizes late in the Prime Minister's campaign period, and broad sentiment with his government's direction. "They've got all of the numbers that say would not

really look at an indicator of momentum," he says. "But for some reason they just can't seem to make the sale."

It's not for lack of a push. This fall has seen the Conservatives launch a new season of Parliament with a 10-minute speech designed to bolster Tory popularity with its own and a crackdown on violent crime. The target group suburban voters preoccupied with their safety and prosperity. In general, the Tories (and the Bloc) already own rural and small-city Canada, while the Liberals (and the NDP) dominate big cities. That often leaves the battle between the key battlegrounds.



ONLY ONCE IN THE LAST 15 ELECTIONS HAS THE FRONT-RUNNING PARTY LENGTHENED ITS LEAD DURING A CAMPAIGN

So far, though, the numbers don't show the Tories breaking through in metropolitan Bloc Toronto's sprawling suburban periphery. Elsewhere, the Conservatives need to pile up far more votes than they need it, since they are also danger of losing at where they have nothing left to win, like Alberta. In Quebec,

the gap between Bloc Québécois incumbents and Conservative challengers may be shrunk up, but not enough yet, according to Kay, to deliver the Tories enough seats.

The Laurier Institute's projection has the Bloc falling to 44 from 49 MPs. The Tories added to snag only two of those Quebec ridings, while the Liberals would gain three of them. The Tories have to do much better in the polls to win more seats, because they needed to trail the Bloc by wide margins in the rural and small-city ridings where they were the main contender in 2006. The Liberals were much closer in the handful of ridings, mostly around Montreal, where they remain the federal alternative, making it easier for Dion to capitalize on the Bloc's sagging numbers.

Worried Liberals, however, view Quebec as so volatile that Tory gains beyond what recent polls indicate are a distinct possibility.

near Quebec City that was taken over by the conservative-minded Action démocratique du Québec in their breakthrough to official Opposition status in last spring's Quebec provincial election.

In solid Ontario, however, huge voter-angst against party politics are not expected. Instead, Tory success focuses on a dozen seats they lost last time by 10 per cent or less of the vote. Among those ridings, Kay points to three just west of Toronto, two Mississauga seats, and one in Oakville, that would switch from Liberal to Tory. These are the sort of suburban seats the Conservatives need a lot more of to manufacture a majority. Kay says the Tories typically gain two closely contested ridings for about every one percentage point rise of their Ontario vote. The combined October polls he used gave the Tories one point behind the Liberals in the province, up from five points back in election day 2006. That trend, according to the Laurier model, would correct Liberal seats, along with one held now by the NDP, slipping into the Tory column.

Now among a campaign, the NDP runs as a key Ontario wildcard. Since Conservatives estimate, for instance, that far away goes the NDP divided over 10 per cent of the Ontario popular vote, Lyons-Rice would pick up just one seat, but three would go to the Tar-

ries. The reason is that NDP support at that level—well above their current range in the mid teens—would cut into the Liberals' safe areas base, handing seats to Conservatives. Bricker views the NDP as an intriguing wild



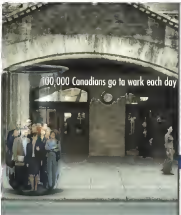
G20. The numbers don't support the Tories

card for the next campaign. "Jack Layton's leadership numbers are actually quite good," he says. "The NDP are the party with the big chance to grow in an election."

That potential, however, has yet to show up in the Laurier Institute's projection, which

shows the NDP dropping to 27 from 30 seats. The apparently dismal outlook for the NDP's Jack Layton and the Bloc's Gilles Duceppe seems at odds with their recent bravado in the House, as their caucuses vote against the Tories, compelling the Liberals to abstain to avoid precipitating an election. Senator David Smith, the veteran Liberal campaign boss, predicts Layton and Duceppe will eventually ease up. "Quite frankly," Smith says, "it's hard to understand why they are so trigger-happy."

In fact, it's hard to see why any party would be. Not the Liberals, whose own strategies could boost strength, not Dion's leadership, for their confidence. As for the Tories, history provides this note of caution: only once in the past 15 federal elections has the front-running party at the outset of the campaign leading in lead-by-election day. Pierre Trudeau's Liberals managed it in 1974. (In 1988, the Conservatives and Liberals extended the race about tied in the polls, so Brian Mulroney's win that year might also be seen as bucking the trend.) Usually the party running second when the vote is dropped gains support during the campaign. But this fall's polls suggest Harper, like Trudeau in '74, will have to try to defy the odds and secure his majority, not in government, but on the campaign trail. ■



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Source: Pharmaceutical Canada. And Canadian Employment Impact Study. December 2006.

Getting over the income tax debacle

BY CHRIS KELLEY • On the one-year anniversary of Finance Minister Jim Flaherty's "14th Avenue measure"—the government's decision to tax income trusts starting in 2011, in violation of an election promise—about 100 small investors gathered on Parliament Hill in Calgary, the Co-chair of Canadian Energy Trusts (CGET) publicly renewed its objections, among them the lack of public consultation and the flimsy evidence of tax "leakage" under the old model. But Canada's Association of Trustee Trust Investors (CATTI) president Brent Fullard was upbeat. He said in an Oct. 16 news round-up, the Conservative government's decision to tax trusts, he compared the Canadian Council of Chief Executives' support for Stephen Harper to



PROTEST ON THE HILL: Anyone but the Tories ... or the NDP

“Dinner for 14” —up jacking Hitler's rise to power.” Another email was entitled, “Did mean Harper.” Government critics say the income tax trust is a \$14 billion. Money managers say the angry phone calls will flow in, and every Conservative party membership has been turned up. But Fullard's short voice is increasingly lonely. CGET on chair John Dilworth, president and CEO of AET Energy Trust, says he and other Alberta trust executives hold out little hope the Tories will change their minds—and the trust sector has managed a modest rebound over the year. Dilworth's group is a financial backer of Fullard's organization, and Dilworth believes Fullard is doing an “excellent job” getting the message out. But he concedes “it would be a little bit of overkill in there.”

Fullard offers no apologies, and denies blaming Harper to Hitler—even as the case of another email entitled “Hitler was a strong leader too.” He says he's simply calling Canadian attention to the Prime Minister's “divisive lie” qualities in hopes they'll vote for someone else—the Liberals, for example, who have proposed a more modest 10 per cent tax. “Any issue is fair game,” says Fullard. “Just like Donkey Williams in any way, anyone but Conservative. Except in any case we add anyone but the NDP!” ■

Paying back churches first, then natives



RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL: Churches say money will go to healing funds

BY JONATHAN CATHERWOOD • Three of the churches that run Canada's residential schools are set to receive millions in government refunds, well before most native children will see single penny of compensation. The money—“overpayments” under a \$4-billion federal settlement—must be returned to the Anglican, United and Presbyterian churches by a mid-January deadline.

The Anglicans, who run 16 of the country's 80 Aboriginal boarding schools, will receive the largest refund, after their compensation cap was reduced from \$25 million to \$15.7 million. (The contributions from Protestant churches were rejected because Catholics, who operated 39 schools, struck a deal that would have seen them pay proportionally less.) Mike Johnson, director of the church's permanent department, says the lot's share will go to a healing fund for former students, but some cash will flow back to individual dioceses. The Presbyterians, with just two schools, have seen their payment reduced from \$2.1 million to \$1.5 million. Their refund will be entirely dedicated to healing projects.

The United Church, which runs 15 institutions, will receive \$1.6 million cash and a \$1 million credit toward its obligations to provide services for survivors. Part of the money will be used to help the church prepare for the interment of its Truth and Reconciliation process.

Meanwhile, the 70,000-and-counting former students who have signed for the Common Experience Payment—the first step to addressing the trauma of being removed from their families, stripped of their culture, and too frequently physically or sexually abused—continue to sit by their millions. A federal spokesman acknowledged “some delays,” but refused to say how many—fewer of the 40,000 (estimated to average \$24,000) have been processed. ■

Preventing suicides on the tracks

BY MICHAEL FRINGOLANTI • Eleven years ago, Transport Canada vowed to tackle an obvious problem: death by railroad track. In 1996 alone, a train collided with a passing vehicle 165 times—an average of once a day. Pedestrian fatalities were also mounting, 116 people were struck by a speeding train. A decade later, after a coordinated campaign of warning signs and public service announcements, the numbers were starting to shrink. In 2005, there were nearly 100 fewer collisions (170), and only 43 cases in which a person died while crossing a set of tracks.

Still, there is one deadly trend that doesn't seem to be slowing: suicide. Flashing red lights and “No Trespassing” signs may keep the odd jogger away, but not someone bent on ending his life. Preventing suicide requires a completely different strategy—a strategy that Transport Canada is willing to pay for. The department has issued a \$348,000 tender for a four-year study that will “develop a five-year, socially based measures to reduce the incidence of suicide.” The main goal is to identify so-called “hot spots” where the bulk of fatalities occur. Officials can then decide what measures to take, such as erecting barriers, boosting security, or installing “help-line” telephones. (In London, some stations are equipped with “suicide pins.” If a person is in, he falls into a hole below the tracks—no direct contact with the train.)



THINK TWICE: Two-thirds of would-be train suicide survivors

only trigger more suicides. Bruce Mahura, a psychology professor at the Université du Québec à Montréal, is among those wary of publicity. But he concedes the idea for studying the issue. If nothing else, it could make some people think twice about jumping in front of a train. “People believe this is going to produce an immediate, certain, painless death,” he says. “But in reality, people die in agony in hospital, and two-thirds are young. And they are usually severely damaged if they survive.” ■

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OUT OF AFRICA

Considered 'a gold mine for global jihad,' North Africa is becoming al-Qaeda's newest base

BY MICHAEL PEYROC • Al-Qaeda's top leaders are widely believed to be based up somewhere in the tribal areas of Pakistan, where the thousands and thousands of Islamic extremists present has been used by Pakistani President Gen. Pervez Musharraf as justification for declaring a state of emergency and suspending the constitution. The global terror network also has an active franchise in Iraq. But far from the mountains of Central Asia, or the tight-knit dens of Mecca, al-Qaeda is finding a new strong hold at the very gates of Europe.

Last June, an Islamist strategist published an article titled "Al-Qaeda is Moving to Africa" in the online magazine *Eden of Jihad*. The author, Abu Asrar al-Ansari, was identified by a confidential source with ties to U.S. intelligence agencies as a Saudi national and al-Qaeda affiliate who spent time in Afghanistan during the war against the Soviet occupation, and while the country was controlled by the Taliban. Ansari described Africa as "an untapped gold mine for global jihad."

"There is no doubt that al-Qaeda and the holy warriors perceive the significance of the African regions for military campaigns against the crusaders," he went on to say. "Many people across the faith consider this not yet found, as proper reported war, and the next stages of the conflict will see the presence of Africa in the battlefield."

Ansari identified several factors that make Africa attractive for transnational Islamists, including the growing strength of Islam on the continent, the ease of movement between and within poorly governed countries, the weakness of local military and security agencies, and the prevailing poverty that will "enable the holy warriors to provide some finance and welfare and thus pose themselves as their industrial operatives." Most significantly, Ansari asked Islam to Europe from North Africa, "which causes the masses from there to occupy our states." The *Sunna of Gibraltar*, separating Morocco from Spain, is only 13 km wide. But more important, this geographic proximity is the access to Europe provided by Islamic sympathizers sending the tens of thousands of North African immigrants to western Europe. A stronger presence



IN PEYROC released on the Web by al-Qaeda, soldiers are shown training in Algeria—the site of some recent attacks



The geographic proximity between Africa and Europe makes it an ideal spot for terrorists to launch attacks

in North Africa could give al-Qaeda a base from which to expand into that continent. European intelligence agencies have long worried about the presence of North African Islamic groups on their soil, and this fear has been justified. The Armed Islamic Group, an Algerian jihadist organization responsible for the widespread massacre of civilians in Algeria, carried out a wave of

bombing and an attempted hijacking in France during the 1990s. More recently, the 2004 Madrid bombings, which killed almost 200 people, were executed largely by Moroccan mass groups, including at least one member of the Moroccan Islamic Combatant Group, another North African Islamist organization.

While North Africa itself, however, support for Islam in groups flourished during the late 1990s and early 2000s. An Algeria government strategy caused many members of the Armed Islamic Group to quit the organization, and general disillusionment at the group's murder of civilians dried up much of its support. Two factors helped revive militant Islam in North Africa. The first was the war in Iraq, which inflamed public opinion, but also provided Islamists a young man with a chance where they could directly confront American soldiers. In June 2005, U.S. courts estimated that their age to 25 per cent of suicide bombers in Iraq were North African, mostly from Algeria. However, those who didn't blow themselves up likely had a bigger impact on the spread of Islamic extremism in Iraq, they met jihadists from around the world, including members of al-Qaeda, and they took these ideas and their ideas back to North Africa.

"When you have a North African who goes to Iraq, they're basically in a melting pot," says Emily Hunt, a former fellow at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy who has conducted extensive research in North Africa. "They're being exposed to people from other parts of the Middle East that they never would have encountered before in their tribal villages in Algeria, or their small villages in Morocco."

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And that's what makes this so dangerous, is this feeling, put, this cross pollination of ideas and techniques and tactics that don't re-appear to Algeria and Morocco and elsewhere in North Africa."

The second factor in the trend of violent Islamism in North Africa flowed perhaps inevitably from the exposure of North African militants to Qaeda operations in Iraq. In October 2003, the Salafist Group for Preaching and Combat, an offshoot of the Al Qaeda Group, pledged its support for al-Qaeda and Osama bin Laden's study war against the United States. Three years later, on the fifth anniversary of Sept. 11 attacks, bin Laden's deputy Ayman al-Zawahiri announced an alliance with the Salafist Group for Preaching and Combat.

"We pray to Allah that this voice will be a thorn in the neck of the American and French crusaders and their allies, and tomorrow the heart of the French traitors and apostates," he said in an interview with al-Qaeda's propaganda wing that was circulated on the Internet. "We ask Allah to help our brothers in the foundation of the crusader alliance, primarily their leader, the infidel United States, must be on Allah's several mortal sins, in January 2007, the Salafist Group for Preaching and Combat formally changed its name to al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb.

J. Peter Pham, director of the Nelson A. Rockefeller Institute for International and Public Affairs at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Md., says the relationship between al-Qaeda and its base in North Africa is less but valuable to both parties. "It works both ways," he told *Maclean's*. "Al-Qaeda gets to show credit for actions in a theatre where it previously didn't have an operational presence. And the local group now has an international brand. I don't think there's direct control. No one is sending orders from the



The U.S. military claimed that up to 25 per cent of suicide bombers in Iraq were North Africans—mostly Algerians



ONLY RECENTLY, using after the 1998 embassy bombings in Kenya (top), did the U.S. military level up security in Africa

tribal regions of Pakistan telling these guys what to do. But it's a mutually symbiotic relationship."

Pham says al-Qaeda has much in part from an alliance with a local jihadist group in North Africa because of the access North African Islamists provide to Europe. "French and Spanish intelligence have long noted that they have much better reach into the immigrant communities in western Europe than al-Qaeda itself does. So there's a whole new opening."

The United States was arguably slow to

recognize the threat posed by Islamist militants in Africa—even after al-Qaeda attacks against U.S. embassies in Tanzania and Kenya killed hundreds in 1998. American military and intelligence agencies directed very little resources at Africa, especially south of the Sahara. In the months and years leading up to the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, al-Qaeda operatives frequently travelled to Liberia to launder money in exchange for blood diamonds mined in neighbouring Sierra Leone—a process that appears to have escaped the notice of the CIA.

Meanwhile, across the continent, aggressive Saudi funding of mosques and social welfare programs spurred the growth of the severe Wahabi form of Islam in place of the more spiritual Sufi sects that traditionally predominated in Africa. On a recent visit to Nigeria, the capital of Chad, a *Maclean's* reporter encountered desperate poverty and few buildings higher than one story—with the exception of a large and well-built mosque that looked not so much as if it were built by Saudis.

In the last several years, however, the U.S. has made an effort to re-establish a security-minded presence on the continent. Last month it launched AFRICOM, a command centre to oversee military activities in Africa, which was previously divided between three unified command centres. The United States is also working to build the counter-terrorism capacities of local governments and militaries, often through training programs run by U.S. Special Forces.

According to Pham, who consults for both the Pentagon and the Department of State, these programs have been successful in part because they don't involve a large or disruptive American military presence. "The goal is to improve these countries' capacities in self governance. It's not an American agenda. It just so happens that it also benefits American interests, and those of its Western allies," he says.

Other American military initiatives in Africa are spread more toward mining booms and mining. Combined with the Port of Harar in Africa, based in Djibouti, builds schools, drills wells, and provides medical and veterinary assistance while trying to attract investments for increased foreign investment. "Our overarching goal is to create an environment that causes the ideological support of terrorism and extremism," an American military official at the base wrote in an email to *Maclean's*.

It's a lofty goal, and a difficult one. The West's Islamic opponents have equally free thinking opponents. "The radical, blind eyes, Africa is therefore just a base," writes Asmaa, the Islamic strategist, "maybe even a future alternative base to Iraq or Afghanistan." ■

And the award goes to...no one

A controversial batch of docs comes to Turkey's version of Cannes

BY ADRIAN B. KIRAN • In Turkey, nothing is immune from politics. Even in Antalya, a bright and leafy resort city on the Aegean coast with beachside restaurants, patriotism can occasionally cast its ugly shadow. Two weeks ago, while Antalya kicked off its 64th annual Golden Orange Film Festival, Turkey's version of Cannes, the expected debauchery was suddenly and unexpectedly only reflected by the deaths of 12 soldiers at the hands of separatist guerrillas from the Kurdistan Workers' Party, opening out of northern Iraq more than 1,000 km to the east. The shooting, 100-200 Turkish troops having arrived at the Iraq border shortly before dawn, has reached fever pitch, and the consequences to the region seem dire indeed. But if war is senseless, then life can certainly sustain art, or don't you think it must have seemed to many of the dozens participating in the festival, where many of the films being screened dealt directly or indirectly with the Kurdish issue?

"There is no art for art's sake in Turkey," says Ceylan Dursun, whose documentary film, *It Was Considered the Most Controversial*, will be shown at the Golden Orange "Turkey is by definition political. No one and nothing here can stay out of politics for long, not even this festival, which is supposed to be a celebration of film." With his nose telling the story of Kurds in eastern Turkey who were massacred in 1937-38, Dursun is all too aware of how the events at the Iraq border changed the outcome of the festival. "I never expected to be here in the first place," he said shortly before his film screened. "Now, I don't think I have a chance to win."

In fact, none of the documentary was the most riveting of them exposed when it Turkey's most disturbing historical realties film the Kahraman Kahraman's *A Bridge over the River of the World*, the story of young idealism in the late 1960s building a bridge in the Kurdish east to prevent the lack of development there, or Nispet Saner's *75 Me Me* as a Example Of, a eulogy to Turkey's victims of the new defense death penalty, which also version to question the purpose behind the 7212 convictions since the founding of the republic 70 years ago in a controversial decision, the jury agreed not to hand out a prize

in the category, citing "a lack of professionalism" in the films that screened. But director like Dursun isn't buying it.

With all of Antalya's streets lined in the blood end of the Turkish flag, commemorating the 64th anniversary of the founding of the Turkish republic, to watch films like Dursun's is a little like slipping into a bathroom porno theatre, gazing around nervously to see if you've been seen. This is the reality for Turkish filmmakers. "It's always difficult here," says Tash Akis, Turkey's most prominent director, whose film *The Edge of Heaven* has been submitted for nomination for an Oscar this year, albeit in a German film because it was partially done in Bremen and Hamburg. "I live the reality: I read the papers and I see the headlines. But as they naturally come out in my films, I don't



POLITICS affected the individuals at Turkey's most prominent director, Tash Akis.

Ipelci can escape some of the issues Turkey's documentary filmmakers face. "I'm afraid," says Dursun. "If you want to tell a story against the official ideology, you risk arrest. But I can't let my fear prevent me from doing what I want."

Regardless of the jury's ruling, those in the documentary category say they won't acquiesce to the announcement of four they tied has been created by Turkey's established men. "The obvious political content of the films makes the jury's decision suspect," reads a release issued by two of the directors. "Our evaluation is that the jury's consensus are disappointed to the filmmakers, who work in very hard conditions and dedicate their lives to make documentaries."

In Antalya, the thick of the decade's darkest moments, the film festival lost a bit of self-reliance quickly faded. After three days of mourning, the schedule was again packed with parties and feasts. But the repercussions remain.

"There's a history to the cinema that are not taking right now," says Dursun. "This is not simply about 12 soldiers being killed. To understand what's happening at the border, you have to understand the history." It was his contribution to that understanding, as were other films. Turkey's film directors are ready to tell the stories same Turks would rather not hear. But the documentary willing to let them speak? ■

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LADY MAY HAVE WON, BUT LOOK 70 PER CENT OF THE AND UPPER-CLASS VOTE

the soil that the election result is "far from putting us in a position of privilege, and quite as in a position of greater responsibility and obligation." She also said that she wants "to extend a hand to the opposition." But at the same time, much of what she said was directed at her party supporters who look into

Like her husband, Perlmutter is also open to focus on economic development. Kirschner is widely credited with getting the country back on track after the collapse of the banking system in 2003. Under Kirschner, Argentina has seen the economy expand by eight per cent per year. But for Garza, the Kirchner economic record is nothing but bleak: "They haven't done anything to trigger the economic cycle," she said during her presidential campaign. "It's been brought on by global conditions." "Cautious," she refers to Perlmutter as a "hotax quera," and that despite losing the elections she has done quite nicely for herself. "I'm a woman with some political aptitudes and without a husband," she told her supporters. "So I did pretty well." ■



• *Think About It*

Granted, there was a time when a question like this would have been met with a snarl: "Well, uh... actually yes." After all, just a few short years ago no one knew much about us - let alone how to pronounce our name (it rhymes with "Thursday" not "for the second").

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Does there is more support from your clients?

A children's Advent calendar on sale in the city of Hanover is panned under colophons. Among the characters shown on it is a burning a steel cleaver standing near a group of children caught Christmas paria. Said to depict the city's notorious mass killer Fritz Hausmann, who chopped up 24 young men, the figure causes a storm of criticism. Tourism officials selling the calendar defend the depiction, saying Hausmann was a part of Hanover's history.

[illegible]

Romanians and Romans don't mix

BY JORDAN YONK • Fans of the Roman soccer club Lazio are infamous for expressing most teams during games, on banners and in chants and songs. But last weekend when they cursed Romanian striker Adrian Muta from the visiting Fiorentina side, calling him a "gyggy," it represented more than just a crude attempt at gossamerism.

In late October, Italian police arrested Nicolae Romanis Muta, a Romanian citizen and ethnic Roma—gyggy—in an illegal dance town on the outskirts of Rome and charged him with the murder of an Italian woman. It was the latest in a series of violent crimes in Italy allegedly committed by Romanian immigrants, and it catalyzed growing anti-Roma sentiment in the country. Since Romania's admission to the EU earlier this year, a huge number of its citizens have moved to Italy looking for work. They're blamed for a disproportionate amount of the country's violent crime—Roma's mayor blames 75 per cent of the murders, rapes and robberies in his city this year on Romanians—and the Mafia case seems to have been a breaking point.

Last week, the Italian government passed a decree allowing for the suspension of EU on items whose authorities consider to be security threats. Dozens of Romanian citizens have already been rounded up by police and deported. There have been reports of attacks against members of the Romanian community.



A GYPSY ROMANIAN camp near Rome: taking the blame for crime

ity, and on Sunday, opposition leader and former PM Silvio Berlusconi called for an immediate ban on Romanian workers trying to enter Italy. Romanian Prime Minister Călin Drăghulescu has merely agreed to a meeting with his Italian counterpart Romano Prodi to discuss the situation, even as President Traian Băsescu warned, "The Romanian state will not accept the harassment of hundreds of thousands, or millions, of people."

Mukasey for AG: it could be worse



TORTURE PROTEST: Mukasey avoided endorsing the tactic

BY LIZARA DE BRASCA • Michael Mukasey's nomination to become the next U.S. attorney general stirred up a controversy as well as a time when the Justice Department has become a political battleground for everything from the war on terror to voting rights. Tearing over more partisan candidates to replace Alberto Gonzales, who stepped aside a few weeks of criticism over interference in the department, President George W. Bush chose instead a former judge whose name even appeared on a Democratic list of acceptable picks for the Supreme Court. Both parties hailed Mukasey as a fair jurist and expert on terrorism. He had presided over the trial that locked up Osama bin Laden, the "Blind Sheikh" in his role in planning the 1993 World Trade Center bombing, drawing professional praise and personal death threats.

During his confirmation hearings before the Senate Judiciary committee, Mukasey delighted Democrats by denouncing political meddling in hiring decisions at the Justice Department. They were less thrilled by his expansive view of presidential power, or his past ruling in favor of the administration's right to hold U.S. citizens in "enemy combatant" without trial—admission he wanted to appeal. And the hearings totally exposed what Mukasey declined to say whether the interrogation technique known as "water boarding" amounts to torture and is therefore illegal. Mukasey said he needed to know more about the CIA's use of the technique that simulates drowning.

It looked like committee Democrats might torpedo the nomination. But this week, Democrat Charles Schumer of New York and Democrat Feinstein of California reluctantly voted to approve Mukasey, clearing the way for his confirmation by the full Senate. Schumer's rationale was simple: if not Mukasey, he reasoned, they'd end up with someone worse.

Irish priests have a few for the road

BY PATRICIA TERRELL • The Republic of Ireland as well as Northern Ireland are about to lower their current level of a 60 per cent blood alcohol content for impaired drivers. After years of drunken carnage on the roads, and with alcohol consumption up 17 per cent in the last decade in Ireland, there is some growing intolerance of drinking and driving. However, the Catholic Church is concerned that the tougher rules could interfere with its sacred duty of performing mass.

A rapidly shrinking pool of priests means they often have to drive from church to church, saying two or three masses a day. The consecrated wine not consumed during communion has to be drunk, usually by priests, though parishioners can also imbibe. Father Brian O'Leary, a Northern Ireland priest and pope for BBC Radio here, is worried that the new laws will coincide with increasing numbers of mass with mean DUI points. "I don't



DRIVING UNDER the Influence of Christ's blood is frowned upon

like to use the word wine, as it is Christ's blood in the Eucharist—but it still has all the characteristics of wine when in the blood stream." One unrepentant priest in Galway said that he'd perform his religious duty regardless of his blood alcohol level. "If a call comes in that somebody is near death, I have no choice but to do it, no matter what the priest is and give him or her the last rites."

Throwing away consecrated wine is blasphemous for Catholics, and using a non-alcoholic drink, such as grape juice, is rarely allowed by the Church. To solve the problem, Father Eddy O'Donnell of Drogheda drives a spare priest to drink the left-over wine, but most priests have to resort to a scandalous excuse: "The day that the celebration of the Eucharist becomes a dilemma for drunk driving—I am afraid it begins here!" While the new law will likely be a big relief, Father O'Leary's worst fear is a non-alcoholic law, advocated by the State Party, which would force everyone, not just priests, to go to mass without their cars.

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FEATURING 200 UNITS in South East False Creek, Millennium Water is being billed as Vancouver's last waterfront community

B.C.'S OLYMPICS OF REALTY

A new condo called Millennium Water will double as Vancouver's 2010 Olympic Village

BY SANCT MACDONALD • Austin Ganger has spent five days and four nights as a Vancouver insider. Normally class-cut and gelled, Ganger thinks he looks homeless. But this is not the Downtown Eastside, rather, it's South East False Creek, Vancouver's up-and-coming 'hood. And his brand-new beard and dishevelled nog are accessories to his outdoor gear. Carved around the block and across West First Avenue, a rich crowd of several dozen, like him, browse the elements. Musicians perch, shivering, on lawn chairs. Some sip lattes, or reach up to wave their hands on the industrial-sized heating lamps rolled out for them. Ganger has brought his multimillionaire. At the front, three figures are stretched out in sleeping bags on the sidewalk; they're fine asleep, though it's already afternoon. Lining up, it seems, is odd work, even when the price is a piece of history.

Tomorrow, Oct. 25, the waiting game will be over. Condo king Bob Reine will begin taking orders for his latest offering—Millennium Water 200 units along False Creek—for local developer the Millennium Group. The cheapest condos start at \$450,000. The best ones top out at \$1.5 million. Nope, will be

ready until 2010. In fact, the decontamination of the downtown brownfield—once a minefield of shipyards, sewers and municipal sewers—isn't even complete. It's the kind of hiccup only the long can create.

Reine is billing this as "Vancouver's Last Waterfront Community," a tag that is surely quaint to site plans once were cleaned. But that's not the sex up Reine's claim: this is also Vancouver's Olympic Village. For 16 days during the Winter Games, the marque project—going up along Athlete's Way, a new city street—will be the focus of intense global interest as the temporary home of speed skaters, downhill skiers and bobsledders from all over the globe. In spring 2002, well into the Olympic hangover, the condos will be handed over. Their lightly used status in a selling point: Reine will tell buyers which of the athletes slept in their bedrooms.

Reine takes home a jaw-dropping \$200 million on the first day. Nope, that's not even a personal best: His one-day record sold \$30 million on a single development in the city's infamous Downtown Eastside. Few would be in Lower Mainland have ever heard of him, but

this son of a trader, raised in Vancouver's working class east end, with more cards than anyone in Canada, Reine is among the most successful real estate agents in the history of North America, according to an industry critic. Trevor Roddy "One of Vancouver's most influential brokers," whom former mayor Larry Campbell, now a senator, pins it.

"It was the rich side of East Vancouver," Reine says of his childhood. His mother, his eyes narrowing behind his black-rimmed Buddy Holly style Ray-Bans "We used to think because the lots were 42 ft, instead of 33 ft, that we lived in a privileged area." He left high school three months before graduation. "Why enroll? An important lesson is evident in Reine, who when at 4:30 a.m., seven

A CROWD FLEES on her days for the chance to buy



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Now everyone's a Freakonomist

The dismal science has discovered that cute sells, and it can't stop

BY CHARLIE GILLER • Rob Quoby is a sex economist. His research focuses on how people adapt to poverty, exploring connections between class of entry and financial disadvantage. It's socially relevant stuff—worthy of being in that way that causes few microeconomists get distracted by pub brochures. So when the associate professor at the University of Calgary dashed off an “analysis” characterizing how the heavy metal band AC/DC affects financial decision making, he figured his peers would quickly agree it was a grovel.

The paper, after all, purported to determine which of the band's lead singers—the late-line Scott or current front man Brian Johnson—led people to commit business with the greatest “economic efficiency.” Deal-makers better bet when Johnson is grinning out songs like *Shine a Light* in the background, the study concluded forcefully, adding: “When policy makers or employers are engaged in negotiations and are undecided on playing the music of AC/DC, they should choose from the band's Brian Johnson economic discography.”

But it was a sex when paper-economists foregoed supreme, one man's gain is another man's talking point. Soon after Quoby emailed the piece to a few friends and colleagues, Steve Levitt, the co-author of *Freakonomics* and the man credited with bringing economics to the masses, found it on an Internet bulletin board and posted it on his personal blog for the New York Times website. “I hope far that guy's wife has no sense,” Levitt added excitedly, apparently having missed the joke entirely. And like that, Quoby was a celebrity—here to metalheads, object of ridicule to academics around the world, an embarrassment to his university. Economists posted the mock paper online by the tens, but talking at each level of academic gear. Then the prize got held off. “It turned up in the *Sunday Morning Herald*,” Quoby gushes. “I mean, you'll have to be pretty serious-minded not to see this thing as a joke.”

Perhaps. But the reception does point up a peculiar trend in what used to be known as



A MOCK PAPER ON AC/DC DID THE ROUNDS ON EMAIL. ECONOMISTS WIT-TUTTED ITS LACK OF VIGOUR.



the Dismal Science suddenly, one with, and these days economists can make a bigger name for themselves by “uncovering” “hidden secrets” of mundane life than by probing the balance-of-payments deficit. Levitt, a senior professor at the University of Chicago, has sold three million copies of his book since it was published two years ago, and he's hardly the only economist now happily trading up quality micro-trends. Tim Harford, who once analyzed trade data for the World Bank, now bills himself as “The Undercover Economist” in newspaper columns, books and blogs, lifting the veil on everything from Starbucks' cupcake sales strategy to the recent global shortage of obese 360-grammed Steven Landburg, then called “America's Economist” of late, has made a name for himself with arguments that seem overly casual on an intuitive (academic) rant, can't not, he smugly, speeds the spread of sexually transmitted diseases. David D. Friedman, one of the Nobel Prize-winning economists Milton Friedman, pen his blog, drawing heavily from his own 1994 book *Hidden Order: The Economics of Everyday Life*

Some of these economists' findings are undeniably diverting, even illuminating. Who knew, as Landburg recently “proved,” that parking your car is more environmentally damaging than driving it? But Quoby wonders whether the boom in ephemera is a serious grating work with true public policy implications. When leading economists can't distinguish genuine research from word-ups like his, he posits, something is seriously wrong. And it's not like celebrity economists are breaking new intellectual ground. “What they're doing is applying very traditional theoretical tools of free-market economics to parts of life we don't normally see there on,” says Jon Stanford, the in-house economist with the Canadian Auto Workers. “The least thoughtful really aren't that innovative.”

Indeed, though Levitt's paper is a near-mythical feat, Levitt's greatest accomplishment arguably has been to shed common sense on fallacies propagated by the political, legal and academic class. Best known is his controversial conclusion on crime and abortion: recent declines in crime rates result not from stricter policing or better gun laws, he argues, but the death of youngsters born into troubled families since abortion was legalized. That he's also turned his data-mining methods to everything from school children's test scores to why drug dealers need to live with their mothers. For police, business and lawmakers,

there's a cheat in every dispute. The same, alas, can't be said for his imitators, who are increasingly long for a cure when some official sinners in such fields. In the early 1970s, for example, the eminent U.S. economist Alan Blinder showed a similar plague of macroeconomic savagery with his satirical essay, “The Economics of Breaking Teeth.” The paper pretended to poke holes at previous theories of toothbreak using two rationalist axioms: “bad cases in one's mouth” versus “mother told me so”—then it just a stick in the eye of colleagues besotted with the banalities of human consensus. “A rationalist literature on dental hygiene exists,” Blinder mused. “It is one that economists are almost completely unaware of these studies, despite the fact that most economists brush their teeth.”

Has peers get the message just because you see something every day doesn't make it important. Quoby hasn't been so lucky. An email from Levitt, only grudgingly acknowledged but clearly well-meaning, had been lost, while offering a discouraging admission about the “chilling” industry Levitt has helped create. “Good to know this was a joke. When you see the manuscripts that I see, anything seems possible.” ■

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COOLPIX

Albertans to Big Oil: cough up the cash

BY NICHOLAS MÖLLER • Crying wolf is tricky business, particularly for an industry dealing with a government suddenly pushing for a larger mouthful of its earnings. Yet oil often enough was no beast fiercer and you are Alberta's boy, who left behind little but a state model. "A wolf will not be believed, even when he speaks the truth." Why for good reason he is in and you are in Canada's the Triple province blessed with precious but cursed with an indifferent public.

The distinction is subtle yet important. Just as Alberta's oil and gas industry, which a recent poll says engendered widespread



A New survey shows public support for higher royalties

dissatisfaction among Albertans when it threatened payouts on the lead-up to a new royalties plan last month. "If royalties are increased, we're going to take our ball and go home," as Matt Brem, Alberta VP for Leger Marketing, paraphrases the position. First up was EnCana, which despite big profits and it would pull \$1 billion in investment, which followed Alberta's 31 per cent of corporate taxes paid by Leger Marketing. After Petro-Canada's 20 per cent, most residents didn't think industry would make good on the threats, and 61 per cent agreed oil income should "overwhelm" the consequences of higher royalties. That's as close to consensus as the poll gets (if otherwise suggest Albertans are divided by the plan to increase royalties). So much's new scheme and one of the most vocal energy leaders met, others said they'd have to review the numbers. "That's what they should have said the first time around," says Calgary petroleum historian David French.

Indeed, there talk has jeopardized industry credibility with Albertans. But are the oil executives Canadian or just boys crying wolf? In fact, it's not clear what the new royalties will do to industry. Crying wolf is fine while you're busy over-inflating, and oil and gas prices may do just fine. But if they're right that the royalties will hurt investors and the public's not listening—well, that'll make them Canadian. No one wants that the ended up raped and murdered. ■

PetroChina's trillion-dollar market debut

BY JASON KERRY • On Monday, China's state-controlled energy company PetroChina debuted on the Shanghai stock exchange. It soared in value to more than US\$1 trillion, making it the world's largest company by market cap. Obviously, China's sophisticated investors have never heard of Warren Buffett.

Buffett, of course, is the legendary chairman and CEO of Omaha, Neb.-based Berkshire Hathaway. Back in 2007, he bought into PetroChina, which then traded only as Hong Kong and New York, to become its largest shareholder after selling PetroChina's status stock off, leading some to call him the "King of China." As of last month, Buffett had clocked an 800 per cent return.

But earlier this year, Buffett began unloading his shares. By late October, just a week before PetroChina's Shanghai debut, Buffett had sold out completely. Some observers chalked his sale up to pressure from nervous investors that Buffett was close to his maximum. But Buffett was clear in his reasoning: China's stock bubble is "too hot." Anyhow, else, Buffett's success and comments would have doomed the stock offering. But in the eyes of Chinese investors, PetroChina is now worth twice as much as EnCana, and even though the U.S. company has larger reserves and is more profitable.

As with many aspects of China's booming economy, PetroChina's US\$1-trillion price



PETROCHINA now boasts the world's highest market value

tag is more perception than reality. Buying oil costs 26 per cent of the company. What's more, trading PetroChina's shares in Shanghai has little to do with their real value. Most listed Chinese investors are barred from investing outside the country, and there's a limited number of companies in which to invest, so valuations get inflated. In fact, PetroChina shares in New York tanked this week. At least someone is paying attention to Buffett. ■

Why useless bosses always hire idiots

BY JASON KERRY • To be a good boss, surround yourself with smart and talented people. It's one of the most oft-repeated bits of advice from business gurus like former General Electric boss Jack Welch, while whole chapters of management books are devoted to the price. But incompetent bosses have found a better way to survive the modern work world—they just hire employees who are even more useless than they are.

A new study by researchers in Europe has added to the growing wall of evidence that managers who feel they aren't good at their



INSECURE bosses create office 'pools of incompetence'

jobs tend to surround themselves with less competent employees. Researchers at the University of Guelph in Spain and University of Leuven in Belgium suggest insecure bosses do so in order to "try to prevent subordinates from becoming competitors for them."

Numerous studies in recent years have pointed to a proliferation of company bosses and their inept underlings in the workplace. This is a serious cause for concern, warns John Hower, author of *How to Work for an Idiot: The only real bosses are forcing over-expanding 'pools of incompetence.'* "When truly good employees move on to other jobs or retire, a vacuum forms at the top. The local sucking sound you hear is all the pools of incompetence being drawn one level higher in the organizational food chain," he says. "That's how incompetent leaders find themselves wielding incredible power and influence."

However, human resource departments at companies have largely failed to halt this cycle. "HR managers ultimately sit by helplessly as bad bosses hire incompetents," he says. By the time HR types do step in, the damage to the company has been done, and fixing the mistakes is next to impossible.

Of course, that raises some interesting and relevant questions. Studies have found anywhere between one-quarter and 75 per cent of employees think that they could do a better job than their bosses. But if those same bosses heard that, maybe they'd grumble employees should mind themselves why they're there in the first place. ■

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IT'S GOOD TO HATE T.O.

Its struggles reveal Toronto's true value: it unites us in loathing

BY ROHAN KICKLER • It is disingenuous to be a Torontonian these days, the city is desperate need of a champion who knows how to do something other than eat. Someone who considers the city's deterioration, its budget shortfalls, but also the city's curious sense of wit, and pride. (Say, Disney Worlders, can you hear our cheer on the Black? What about some freelance work on the side?) A minor point on the city's agenda, perhaps, but how is it that in Toronto, the biggest city in Canada's wintry climate, Union Station has no parking and spews our train passengers into rain, sleet and blizzards to an unprotected taxi rank that holds up one of the city's busy streets every rush hour, because the sheltered lane that travellers used to use has been handed over to car rental companies? And how is it, that even during the nine years that I have lived here, scores of condo cranes have sprouted up down town and along the Gardiner Expressway with absolutely no improvement to the public transport that might, conceivably, have served these new residents?

Of course, the idea that developers should contribute more than the pittance fees they have been allowed to pay (a third, in Toronto, of what they see in London), or that the Toronto Transit Commission might succeed were it a decent alternative to the car, and not a painful rant, is beyond the imagination of the city's current leadership crop. In Cobbletown, my beleaguered neighbourhood, public transport is a less and less interesting alternative. This morning, a city like any other, a young young drunk belching loudly as he wanders along the streetcar stop as she gruffly tried to assuage the heat. A TTC official waited with a crowd for the streetcar to pass and to give the day a little bit, the TTC's odd subway for the 12th century.

The streetcar, when it did arrive, was small with mud, no surprise, as later here are too complicated a task for the lumbering service to contemplate. A dopey kid sat down in his

short costume of confusion—the baseball cap turned backwards and his oversized white T-shirt and ridiculous baggy jeans—and ended up half on my lap between the side of the seat and the TTC management committee to provide a designed to fit the backside of an average, though certainly not one wearing a winter coat. In Switzerland, famously, the politicians take the metro, and in London, England, now spending £12 billion for improvements to its public transport, the financial workers of the City do. What I'd give for one politician, at

city of domestic and so on—and it is not enough to blame former premier Mike Harris for the election's surprise. The city's crisis is McGowan's hyperbolic exercise, and it is Harper's words—but not to die, it is the city's mayor, David Miller (and not John Tory), who let Torontoans down east of old when the recent provincial election. Why, then, could Miller not find it in himself to urge his constituents to vote for the candidate who, publicly and voluntarily, seemed to settle the debt? That was the oppor-

TRASHED Prayer litter bins are too complicated for the lumbering TTC to contemplate.



IT'S BOTH TOO CLEAN AND TOO POLLUTED, TOO PRISY AND TOO LOUCHE



city hall and Queen's Park, to be compelled to do the same. Then we might see some improvements.

What a shame. What we acule for McGowan, the vessel, sitting on his own 14-billion surplus, actually dignified to write a letter asking Prime Minister Harper for that damn penny from the GST that—even before Jim Flaherty flipped it to

the craters—no Torontonians in his right mind ever expected to see. I'd give my last train fare to see just how much Harper laughed at McGowan's self-serving candour day.

And so the city plods toward mediocrity even as we continue to sing loud rhapsodies about the place—this is a great, magnificent, a

city of an election mixed. During the whole campaign, the city's once mighty mayor was none, at one point even commiserating with McGowan's failure to offer any relief because, said Miller, support for Toronto can be an unpopular move outside the city. It will. This is our mayor speaking, for God's sake.

Except that the mayor had a point, conceding one of the nagging issues about the city that Albert Nobelsberg, the Montreal-born director who brought you *Stupidity* (2001), compares in his new and very funny feature, *Let's All Hate Toronto*. Toronto, the uptight and selfish place that doesn't know itself, is the city that everybody, including Torontonians, has as

Nobelsberg, when he appears in the movie, plays the straight man to his co-director and lead Robert Spence—here a young, white Joe Street suit with a patch over one eye, possibly because a lot of this movie is about not



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avoid things as they are. Spence, baffled as just how much his compatriots do not like Toronto, heavily ventures out into the rest of the country in support of his beloved city (Canada, in the popular documentary *Capital City*, radiates out from Toronto, at its centre, the nation's other cities like satellites at its outer periphery).

Spence, a *Cardinal* for our times, is an optimist, if not a naive idealist, sure. He carries a banner with him into the dangerous heartlands—St. John's, Montreal, Calgary, the Yukon, Vancouver, Peggy's Cove and Halifax, etc. It reads, unfaded, "TORONTO APPRECIATION DAY." And so it is not surprising that Spence encounters in McReb's spoof of our national pastime, just how true it is that Canadians are united by the three E's—



TORONTO'S FOIBLES ARE WHAT MAKE THE CITY GREAT



GET IT ALL RATE TORONTO expresses on uptight, bellish place that doesn't know itself

health care, a love of hockey and a hatred of Toronto—but the last, most of all.

Early on, Spence, in booster mode, tells viewers that Toronto is home to the tallest free-standing building on the planet, to Canada's "most-loved" hockey team—the Maple Leafs—and that, as Torontonians always remind themselves, UNESCO said that it is "the most unethically diverse city on the planet." Torontonians, Spence discovers on his own hook trips, are content by other Canadians as "soft-headed office wrings" that they have never been forgiven for Mol. Last year, calling in the army to clear the snow from city streets back in 1999, that Toronto is the New York of Canada, but "on dial-up." More disconcertingly, although Canadians contemptuously hate Toronto, most don't know why. As a consequence, Spence, the good doctor, in one of the program's many witty scenes, undertakes his own "Secret Royal Commission on Canadian Unity and Inter-Regional

Division in Relation to Alleged Toronto Backlash." His research is broken back to the time of Rubeck Strachan, one of the more adamant members of the Family Compact, who, in signing documents to "John Toronto," started the ball rolling on the city's reputation as a place that was both quaintly arrogant—and boring. Of course Strachan's Toronto was unfathomably unaltered and Pres. Bush's last hardly today's current, multi-racial place—one that trendsetters would now describe as "global"—i.e., a city in which the cultural variety of the globe is recognized

substantially, at the local level. Only when the increasingly disastrous Spence then discovers is that the myths on which the reputation of this city depends are not true. The CN Tower is no longer the world's tallest building, and no one at UNESCO ever actually said that Toronto is the most diverse city on the planet, and that that bit of the city's nobility during is secretly cited by *Wikipedia* as an example of a "Toronto."

And then, the cruellest blow, the redemptible Spence visits Edmonton. In the throes of the 2006 Stanley Cup final, Spence takes to the streets and to radio screens and to sports bars with his banner and his megaphone but also (the secret) a *Maple Leafs* jersey with the name Wayne Gretzky straddled on the back. His banners can only be admitted, truly, though partially, punishment follows as Spence discovers that Edmonton, not Toronto, is Canada's "national" team.

It is an epiphany of sorts. Back home, in the city hated for being both prissy and too loud—(all these gay prides and porn on websites), the city that other Canadians desire for being too clean and yet too polluted, too white but also too diverse multi-cultural, Spence finally understands that Toronto's problems are also what make the city great. Toronto, he realizes, is the city that carries the nation, if only because it is the one part of the country that cannot blame any other. Its problems are the nation's, its citizens, but the city has no choice but to go on with it. Toronto is the country's most interesting and dynamic city exactly because no one who lives in it really is expecting a proxy of the Galt—or anybody else's love, for that matter. Torontonians, actually a hard-working, dynamic and responsible (not no longer dull) lot—are the country's de facto guardians. Being unpopular comes with the territory. So yes, let's all hate Toronto, where citizens know that no one will help Toronto without the city coming to its own mind—though, come to think of it, Toronto could start loving itself a little more. Hah, no one else is going to. Perhaps that's why, as the film's amusing conclusion, Spence finds, during Toronto's New Year's Eve, the city's first of its kind, that the cold city can, occasionally, be an empathetic place—was that really David Miller giving Spence a high-5?



PENNSYLVANIA: HIGH-VOLUME TRICK-OR-TREATING
Residents of Lehigh Valley have made mid-night Halloween trick-or-treating a tradition. This year, the Lehigh Valley scored an unofficial record: Over six nights of solid best candy at discounts, the Upper Merion Township freely handed back \$2. The matter of how best, Joyce Day, saw the matches in a healthy understanding. "We got to spend family time together, getting exercise and not just sitting in front of the TV."

DAVID JARROLD/ABC, JOHN PAUL MULLER



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EXECUTING ORDERS

Ottawa's abrupt change on death penalty cases raises tough questions

BY MICHAEL FRECHAMANT • Ronald A. Smith, the only Canadian on death row in the United States, is represented by a police, suburban lawyer named Greg Jackson. For most of his career, your new lawyer has been banking to save the life of a man who did not hesitate to take the lives of two others. The facts are irrefutable. In 1983, Smith, an Alberta drug addict wandering south of the border, shot and killed two strangers near the side of a Montana highway. When prosecutors asked why he did it, Smith offered this unforgettable answer: "I wanted to find out what it would be like to kill somebody."

Needless to say, Smith has a very short list of sympathizers. That list, however, has always included one unavoidable ally: the Canadian government.

Since abolishing the death penalty in 1976, Ottawa has made a habit of asking for clemency to spare the lives of Canadians facing the death penalty. Smith's case is no exception. Officials have spent two decades lobbying Montana lawmakers to commute his sentence to life behind bars—and, if possible, transfer him to a Canadian prison. That all changed last week, when Public Safety Minister Lockyer told the House that the days of standing up for condemned Canadians are over. "We are not going to seek clemency in countries like the U.S. where there has been a fair trial," he said. The announcement was startling—especially to Foreign Affairs bureaucrats who had no clue it was coming. In fact, the day the Commonsense broke the news, a senior official phoned Jackson's office in a fit of confusion. "Even my conversations with the consulate," he says, "they were absolutely unaware of the position that the government announced."

It's hard to believe it was anything but a reaction to a polemic misreading of events that began in late October, when Montana Gov. Brian Schweitzer told reporters that Canada has been pressuring him to soften Smith's sentence since "before I was even sworn in." Foreign Affairs confirmed that "Canada does not support the death penalty" and tries "to seek clemency on humanitarian grounds, for Canadians sentenced to death in foreign countries." Soon, the office was offering a different version

of events, insisting that "there are no efforts being made on Smith's behalf. Montana believes the foreign affairs ministers, both in line, and a new policy was born. 'There is no death penalty in Canada,' Neil Hinch, Bennett's spokesman, wrote in an e-mail to Macdonald. "However, people should be held responsible for their crimes in other democratic jurisdictions, and we will not interfere with their processes when there has been a fair trial. 'To do so would send the wrong message.'"

But the message coming from Ottawa continues to create confusion. For one thing, the new policy came right after the U.S. Supreme Court ordered a stay of all execution while it decides whether lethal injections are "equal and unequal" punishment. And the Conservatives announced the change on the same day they agreed to support a United Nations motion calling for international moratoriums against capital punishment. Federal websites

'THEY'RE TREATING CANADIANS IN THE U.S. WORSE THAN AMERICANS HERE. IT'S PERVERSE,' SAYS A CRITIC.



SMITH (left), former USMC and Greg Jackson. Which countries will we exempt death-penalty foes?

aren't up to speed on the sudden changes either. The loose pages of both the Department of Justice and the Correctional Service of Canada bear that. "The abolition of the death penalty is considered to be a principle of fundamental justice" and "a significant development in the advancement of human rights." Not anymore, it seems.

Equally unclear is the question of who deserves Ottawa's support. As Day said, the

list doesn't plan to interfere if a Canadian is sentenced to die after a "fair trial" in a functioning "democracy." But which countries fall under that loaded description? If Harper's team has conducted a list of approved countries, they aren't sharing it.

And then there's the small issue of the Supreme Court of Canada. In 2001, the highest court ruled that it's Charter violation to extradite a wanted criminal unless the most



country promises not to seek the death penalty. In other words, Canadians facing the electric chair in the U.S. are out of luck, but if an American fugitive finds his way here, he will be shipped south with a get-out-of-the-ga-chamber-free card. "What they're doing is treating Canadians in the U.S. worse than Americanizing Canada," says David Meier, a prominent Winnipeg lawyer. "And that's perverse. It just makes no sense at all."

WHO'S SUING WHOM

AMPUTEE DIDN'T HAVE A LEG TO STAND ON

A man who sold a barbed-wire snare with his amputated leg inadvertently left inside his apt to settle a suit against the buyer who had it embedded for use in a break-down. John Wood will get his leg back but must pay US\$1,000 to the buyer. Wood didn't go to a proper court but opted for a hearing on *The Justice Media Show*, a television arbitral. Heith dismissed a suit for emotional distress, telling both parties: "I think you are enjoying this."

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INFORMATION SUPPLEMENT

SURGING PREVALENCE RATES, EVER YOUNGER patients, staggering healthcare costs – when it comes to diabetes, the bad news just keeps pouring in. The pairing of the words “diabetes” and “epidemic” no longer has shock value. At the end of last year, the Brussels-based International Diabetes Federation (IDF) released new data suggesting the epidemic has spun out of control. Just 20 years earlier, diabetes affected an estimated 30 million people throughout the world. Last year’s IDF data revealed the disease now affects 246 million people worldwide.

In Canada, the head count now tops 2 million and is expected to reach 3 million by the end of the decade. About 10 percent of affected individuals have Type 1 diabetes, an autoimmune attack on the pancreatic islet cells that generally strikes early in life and makes no distinction between fit and unfit, fat and thin. **THE REST HAVE TYPE 2 DIABETES, WHICH DRAWS ON A MIX** of genetic, social and environmental factors. Aboriginal people are three to five times more likely than the general population to develop Type 2 diabetes, and 77 percent of new Canadians come from high-risk populations (such as Hispanic, Asian, South Asian and African).

In terms of dollars and sense, diabetes acts like a sieve with giant holes, insensitively draining both individual and collective resources. An individual with diabetes can face direct costs (for medication and supplies) ranging from \$1,000 to \$15,000 a year, with no end in sight. The strain diabetes puts on the

health care system is no less severe: a U.S. study determined that diabetes and its complications cost the Canadian healthcare system an estimated \$13.2 billion every year.

The good news lies in what we know: that much of diabetes can be prevented and that, with proper attention to management, most affected people can prevent or delay its most serious complications, which include heart disease, kidney failure, blindness, a failing amputation.

Here’s a look at some of the barriers to preventing and treating diabetes, and what the global community has been doing to overcome them.

A U.S. study determined that diabetes and its complications cost the Canadian healthcare system an estimated \$13.2 billion every year.



TAKE IT FROM THE FIRST LADY

Dr. Flaminia Kaufman of the International Diabetes Federation teamed up with California’s First Lady, Maria Schriever, to develop the following matching health tips for parents and children. “If there’s a single message I’d like to get out to young people with diabetes and their families,” says Dr. Kaufman, “it’s that our efforts to get people to live a healthy lifestyle are not just finger wagging. When it comes to diabetes, it really matters.”

TIPS FOR PARENTS

- If you eat healthfully, your family will too
- When your family’s thirsty, serve water
- Eat fruits and vegetables every day
- Make sure snacks are healthy
- Teach your family about good portion sizes
- Breathe to your baby
- Be active with your kids
- Limit TV, computer and video games – don’t get a TV in your child’s bedroom
- Eat meals with your kids
- Volunteer with your kids – it gets your family moving and it feels great

TIPS FOR KIDS

- Start your day with breakfast
- Drink lots of water
- Eat 5 or more fruits and vegetables every day
- Make your snacks healthy
- Don’t overeat – beware of portion distortion
- If you drink milk, make it low-fat or nonfat
- Get active for at least an hour every day – do what moves you: walk, swim, bike, dance
- Spend less time on your computer, watching TV or playing video games
- Treat your body right – it lasts a lifetime
- Volunteer – it gets you moving and feels great

both preventing and managing diabetes. The increasingly urgent dissemination of that message hasn't stopped the diabetes rates from swelling, however. Why the disconnect?

"A lot has to do with obesity," says Dr. Arya M. Sharma, professor of medicine and chair for obesity research and management at the University of Alberta in Edmonton, medical director of the Edmonton Capital Health Region's interdisciplinary weight loss program and scientific director of the Canadian Obesity Network and professor of medicine at the University of Alberta in Edmonton. Simply put, obesity is the waydoor through which Type 2 diabetes sneaks in.

Call it a pattern, a habit, a conditioned response, or even an addiction: once acquired, overeating and inactivity are difficult to undo. In Dr. Sharma's view, obesity reflects not so much a personal weakness as the deep-seated cultural orientation toward physical inertia. We no longer need to handwash clothes, shake out carpets, or fetch water from the well. Cars take us everywhere we need to go. "We've designed an efficient environment, increased productivity and made life safer," he says. "But at a cost."

Another discouraging bit of news: once obese, the body gets "stuck" to maintain its weight at a higher level, says Dr. Sharma. "The metabolism adapts to and compensates for a lower caloric intake," he explains. While it's true that motivated people can lose weight — "it's like holding your breath" — as soon as they relax their vigilance, the pounds creep back on. "The only long-term cure for obesity," Dr. Sharma maintains, "is surgery."

While obesity doesn't guarantee Type 2 diabetes, it multiplies the odds along an exponential curve, says Dr. Ian Blumer, a diabetes specialist practicing in the Durham



Call it a pattern, a habit, a conditioned response, or even an addiction: once acquired, overeating and inactivity are difficult to undo.

region of Ontario, medical advisor to the Charles H. Best Diabetes Centre, and an elected member of the Clinical and Scientific Section of the Canadian Diabetes Association (CDA). As low as 1 percent in people with a body mass index (BMI) under 22, the lifetime risk of developing Type 2 diabetes climbs to about 30 percent for young adults with a BMI of 25 to 30 — the overweight range. For young people in the obese range (BMI between 30 and 35), the risk surges to more than 50 percent. These figures pale, however, compared to those for severely obese young people — those with a BMI over 35 — more than 70 percent.

Like obesity, diabetes has no cure, says Dr. Sharma. "Once you have it, you have to continue treating it." On the other hand, people can't take umbrage in having past "mild diabetes," a term Dr. Sharma views as a misnomer. "Mild diabetes just means it will take a couple more years before problems develop."

Younger and younger

Once considered a near-silent threat in children and adolescents, type 2 diabetes now occurs routinely in young people in both developed and developing countries. Even type 1 diabetes is growing at a 3-percent rate in children and adolescents, and at the alarming rate of 5 percent among preschool children. Recent data suggest as American children born in 2000 stand a one-in-three chance of being diagnosed with diabetes sometime in life. Granted, many of these children will come from select ethnic

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LOVE YOUR HEART



Once considered a near-oxymoron in children and adolescents, type 2 diabetes now occurs routinely in young people in both developed and developing countries. Even type 1 diabetes is growing at a 3-percent rate in children and adolescents, and at the alarming rate of 5 percent among preschool children.

groups at constitutionally higher risk of diabetes, but no ethnic group is immune.

Closer to home, a study examining the trends in diabetes prevalence from 1995 to 2005 found that the overall prevalence had risen by 69 percent over that time span. Although rates have remained highest in people over 50, by far the greatest increase (94%) occurred in the youngest population.

Jennifer Baccaro, a physician in the endocrinology department of the Hospital for Sick Children (HSC) in Toronto, has been watching the statistical ball play itself out in her own practice, which deals exclusively with children under 18. More than eight years ago, when Baccaro first started working at HSC, "I saw very, very few children with type 2 diabetes," she says. "These days, 'I see them routinely. It's no longer an anomaly."

Better diagnostic techniques and changing demographic patterns may account for some, but not all, of the upsurge in type 2 diabetes in young Canadians, says Dr. Stuart Rasmussen, an endocrinologist and clinical professor of medicine at the University of Calgary. As with adults, obesity takes the lion's share of the responsibility. "In my practice, about 99.99 percent of young people with diabetes are obese," he says.

In children, says Baccaro, type 2 diabetes "behaves" more like type 1. "Many of these kids need to go on insulin right off the bat," she explains, adding that "after they get their blood glucose under control, we may be able to wean them off insulin." At the same time, type 2 diabetes proves

more challenging to manage than type 1 for many kids. "Within reason, young patients with Type 1 can sort most of what they want," she says. "It's more flexible. Kids with type 2, who often have very poor eating habits, need to focus on making radical lifestyle changes."

Dr. Ross would like to see more attention focused on so-called pandemics, also known as insulin resistance, a metabolic state that often leads to full-blown diabetes over time. "We're drawn to that arbitrary line in the sand and called one side of it diabetes, but in truth it's a continuum. The earlier you catch it, the better the outcome."

In the meantime, experts agree that keeping blood glucose under control should be the first order of the day for all people with diabetes, regardless of age. "We now have the knowledge and tools to teach parents how to control their blood glucose," says Dr. Ross, who adds that recent years have brought new optimism to his outlook on diabetes. "Twenty or even 30 years ago, it was normal for kids diagnosed with type 1 diabetes to lose their eyesight," he recalls. "I was appalled at the number of people turning blind. Today we're seeing a lot less blindness, amputation, and kidney failure. We're even talking about genetic causes for type 1 diabetes, and I believe many of my younger patients won't be spending their lives on insulin."

Community buy-in

The difficulty, of course, is getting young people with diabetes to buy into the message. "It's a challenge," Baccaro admits. "These families are used to a lot of fast food, a high

calorie intake, and an excess of sugar and fat. Suddenly they're being asked to give up all that."

Laura Mikos, president of the Toronto-based Costrum Wellness Solutions, a firm specializing in helping individuals and organizations infuse health into their lives, believes children do have an interest in improving their health. "They're thirsting for information," she says. "What they sometimes lack is community support," she says. "For a change to take hold, you need buy-in from various sources."

Not to mention creating role models—the foundation of the "ACT NOW!" (the best you can be!) program Mikos designed for schoolchildren. The program, which received provincial funding for four years and ran in 86 Ontario schools, paired up individual schools with Olympic athletes. "The Olympic 'coach' would go into the school three times per year, accompanied by a student during the second visit," Mikos explains. Not only did the coaches deliver inspiring health messages, they also joined the students in group fitness activities. "The kids were dying!"

Dr. Blanner, for his part, notes the value of interventions at the corporate and governmental levels. "I think it's really encouraging that the PepsiCo, Inc., corporation decided to no longer sell soft drinks in certain school



MONEY FOR TIME

it may seem a small consolation, but all the time spent on managing diabetes may qualify patients for a tax break. In 2005, the Canadian Diabetes Association (CDA) issued a guide to federal and provincial tax credits and benefits available to people with diabetes. Available online at www.diabetes.ca/diabetes, the guide highlights several tax credits and the criteria needed to qualify for them.

People who take insulin and must monitor their blood glucose levels several times a day, for example, may be eligible for the Disability Tax credit (worth more than \$6,000), intended to compensate Canadians for time taken from daily activities to administer "life-sustaining" therapy, provided the therapy takes an average minimum of 14 hours per week. While most adults with diabetes may not meet this criterion, parents of insulin-dependent children are more likely to qualify. The CDA encourages such parents to apply for the credit, which they can claim on behalf of the child.

districts," he says. "It sends a strong message that insulin drops to the community."

Still, Dr. Blanner hasn't given up on individual effort. "Many people won't lifestyle change as an all-or-nothing deal, so it's no surprise they find it daunting," he says. In truth, "it's a misconception that you have to make big changes to achieve results. Losing just 5 percent of your body weight over a year—that's 15 pounds if you're starting at 300—substantially reduces the risk of developing diabetes down the line."

Whatever strategies Canadians end up adopting, Dr. Sharma recommends a healthy dose of patience. "Look how long it took to bring smoking rates down," he points out. "We need to take the same kind of long view when it comes to diabetes. Not to look for quick or absolute solutions, but to see the seeds of change."

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Prep: 15 min Total: 4 hrs 15 min (incl. refrigerating)

- 1-1/2 cups boiling water
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- 1 cup cold apple juice
- 1 tsp. grated lemon peel
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- 1 pkg. (300 g) frozen raspberries, thawed, panned in blender, strained

POUR boiling water over dry jelly powder in large bowl, stir 2 min. until completely dissolved. Add enough ice cubes to apple juice to measure 1-3/4 cups. Add to jelly along with the lemon peel, stir until slightly thickened. Refrigerate 5 to 10 min. if jelly requires more thickening. Stir in whipped topping with wire whisk until well blended.

SPOON 1 Tbsp. of the raspberry purée into each of 12 dessert dishes; top each with about 1/2 cup of the jelly mixture. Drizzle with remaining raspberry purée.

REFRIGERATE 4 hours or until firm. Store leftovers in refrigerator.

Makes 12 servings, 1/2 cup (125 mL) each.

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Nutritional Value For People With Diabetes: 1 Serving = 1/2 Carbohydrate Choice + 1/2 Fat Choice

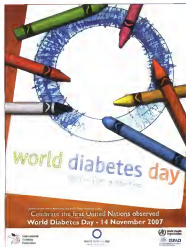
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INFORMATION SUPPLEMENT



In recognition of the birthday of Sir Frederick Banting - who conceived the idea of insulin at Banting House National Historic Site of Canada in London, Ontario - and in recognition of the 246 million people living with diabetes today, the Canadian Diabetes Association is pleased to celebrate the first-ever United Nations recognized World Diabetes Day, November 14, 2007.

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A LATE-START PROGRAM IN MINNESOTA HELPED TO EASE THE BACKLOG OF DEPRESSION

Go on, sleep in

Toronto schools mull shifting classes to 11:30 to help dozing students

BY CHRIS KELLEY • Sixth is an essential quality of the archetypal teenager. No fewer than three parental wake-up calls are generally required to get this restless, yawning adolescent out of bed and on the way to school. But there is a growing body of scientific evidence that biology, not weak character, may be to blame—that the adolescent brain is simply ill-suited to shutting off at night to get to school well-rested the next morning.

A 2004 German study found that an "apparently unattainable capacity to stay up late and to sleep in" peaks at around puberty, and abruptly comes around the age of 20. Some researchers believe that hormonal changes disrupt circadian rhythms "to keep us fresh," the internal rhythm that regulates human beings on roughly a 24-hour cycle of waking up and going to sleep. Others, however—both scientists and parents—call napster choice has more to do with it. The German study cheerfully noted that it couldn't say conclusively whether teenagers sleep late because they go to the disco or [whether] they go to the disco because they cannot sleep until late."

There is far more agreement over the deleterious academic effects of abnormal sleep patterns, whatever their cause, which will come as no surprise to anyone who's ever dealt with jet lag. Various school boards across North America have decided to respect the rhythms of teenage nocturnality—or to codify them, depending on who you talk

to—by starting classes later in the day. Just when Toronto District School Board trustee Cathy Danyluk blasted the idea last month of having high schoolers start class at 10:30 a.m., 2½ hours later than they do now, it seemed to be a little too late. The author of one of many increased letters to the editor conceded "there may be some valid research

SCIENCE SUGGESTS TEENS' SLEEP PATTERNS ARE HORMONAL, BUT PARENTS AREN'T CONVINCED

indicating that teenagers have different sleep patterns," but advised parents to "get used to it.... What adults want to be up at 6 a.m. to start the daily commute? But we do it and so can you."

Danyluk dismisses such arguments as blather. "Invited to school 40 minutes too late, and absent, they can do it too," she insists. "I don't think that's a good basis upon which to form a decision policy." Still, she concedes that the Toronto students would, to some extent, be guinea pigs. "There has really not been any research done about making a shift to a much later starting time, such as 11:30 a.m.," says Kyle Whitmore, director of the Center for Applied Research and Educational Improvement at the University of Minnesota.

In 2002, Whitmore published the first paper finding from an oft-cited "late start" project in Minnesota—but that was a shift from 7:15 a.m. to 8:40 a.m. A "late start" in Minnesota is still earlier than an "early start" in Toronto, in other words. "Options are sleep occurs between 11 p.m. and 8 a.m.," says Whitmore, explaining the rationale behind the Minnesota experiment, but Danyluk is not alone in wanting to go later. The University of Toronto's Martin Ralph, who studies circadian rhythms in hamsters, told *News & Views* last year that in his view, "[s]chools and universities should ideally start not before 11."

There are practical considerations, too. In rural areas, where people might understandably scoff at these Torontoan indulgences, sleep often has to take a back seat to the realities of busing. School closures in southern Saskatchewan have forced some students onto buses earlier in the morning—a few unlucky kids even boarding before 7:30. Meanwhile, in Calgary, where many private high schools have moved from 8 a.m. starts to 9 a.m., some parents have complained about the potential for family disruption. The Calgary Herald spoke to one parent whose 17-year-old son started at 8 a.m., finishing just in time to pick up his two younger sisters from school and hockey until she got home. "I might just have to wake a straight night shift instead," she said. If her son's school followed through on plans to make the change, other families might benefit, of course, but the issue of local news

items would be less likely to hear about them. Ultimately, however, Danyluk cautions it's incredibly important that educators respond to how parents, good dad and mom. "And if the Minnesota findings—"improved attendance and attendance rates, less sleeping in class, and less student-reported depression"—have any relevance to students in Toronto and a much later start time, the idea may well be worth a shot. But it is a shot that will be at the outside of the range. Danyluk cautions, the school start time will depend on long discussions between principals, teachers and administrators. So there may be hope for the future, but it appears Toronto's teens will be dragging their sorry butts out of bed for 9 a.m. until September 2009, at least. ■



WHY IT'S NAUGHTY TO BE NICE IN ILLINOIS SCHOOL
Meggie Coulter, a Grade 6 student in Macomb, Ill., has been given two detentions for breaking rules. "I was just being nice to my friends, that's all," she says. Her transgression was helping her pals Macomb Middle School expressly forbids expressions of effective means students. After all, explicit school discipline policy, "in poor taste, reflects poor judgment, and brings discredit to the school and the persons involved."

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Through a glass darkly

It's the best year for movies since the '70s—and as bad guys rule, that era's outlaw spirit is back **BY BRIAN D. JOHNSON**

film

You think of a big being fed into a wood chipper in *Fargo*. Or a mafia serving as a life raft for a trio of ex-cons floating just a cove incoherent on a roof in the flood waters of *O Brother Where Art Thou?* Joel and Ethan Coen are known for dark comedies buried with sarcasm wit and cruel irony. But their new movie shows a startling maturity. Based on the novel by Cormac McCarthy, *No Country for Old Men* has all the raw trappings of classic Coen pulp fiction—a drug deal gone bad, a suitcase of cash, a psychopath leaving a trail of bodies in the moon-bathed west. Tense. Joel Coen considers it the most violent film he and his brother have made. Yet it's also the most contemplative, and the most powerful. Their finest work since *Fargo*, it gleefully expands on the dark genome of their 1984 feature debut, *Blood Simple*. Here, the blood pools across an epic landscape, and this shared contemporary western congeals into another kind of movie: slaughter—on cinema's portrait of a country as a moral wasteland.

When the Coen brothers began to lose their cynicism, you know that America is in severe disrepair. No Country for Old Men belongs to a new breed of movies: tied with an urgency that has not been seen in American cinema since the '70s. In fact, 2007 is shaping up to be the best year for movies since that decade. And the best of them look like they're from the '70s. We tend to look back on those years as the last golden age of American cinema, before the industry was colonized by super heroes and special effects. With titles like *The Godfather*, *Chinatown*, *Barry Lyndon* and *The Deer Hunter*, it was a time when movies mattered.

Now, as in the early '70s, America is reeling in an unpopular war. Once again the big screen is crowded with dark, politically charged

dramas of outlaws and anti-heroes challenged by paranoia and conspiracy. And many filmmakers are consciously spicing '70s style—dissected by gritty narratives, no realism, moodily camera work, a sense of landscape as character, acids of surreal drugs and violence, and dialogue that's apt to deteriorate into a monologue or a manifesto.

Some of those movies dramatize true stories that took place in the '70s. We've seen two spec about cocaine profits from the era—Zach Braff's obsessive investigation of a cryptic trail, *Bullhead*, and American Gangster's Godfather treatment of a Harlem drug lord who killed

THE '70s to '07 James Caan as Pat Garrett (below), Paul Peter Finch in *Heaven*, *No Country for Old Men's* Javier Bardem (right)



the Vietnam War for heroin. The year has also produced two renditions of *Indignance*—*Control*, about Joy Division singer Ian Curtis and his bad decision to suicide, and the upcoming *I'm Not There*, a cabaret portrait of Dylan with six actors approximating Rob.

In a other case, the influence of specific films from the period is transparent. *Michael Clayton* revisits the anti-corporate rant of *Network* (1976), concentrating the mad broadcaster as a flipped-out lawyer. In the Valley of Black Girls, the Vietnam war treatment of *Coming Home* (1978) to the Iraq war, filling a plot device from *The Conversation* (1974). *The House of the Dead* is a *Sam Driver* (1976), casting Jude Poirer as a Manhattan vigilante. *Se7en* (1997) before the *David Rosen* (1976), the tale of a dissident scientist bent, channels the chicken pox and angst of *Lorent's* own *Day After Tomorrow* (1975). And the brother-in-law of *The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford* carries plangent echoes of *Sam Peckinpah's* *Pat Garrett and Billy the Kid* (1973).

Peckinpah's menacing tone also seems to pervade the Coen's new film. "The pace, *No Country for Old Men* was like a Peckinpah movie," says its cinema anthropologist, Roger Deakins. "It has the feel of a spaced piece—but then the contemporary world around it. Especially thought of Peckinpah's *Bring Me the Head of Alameda Garcia* (1974), where the star actor still live by the rules of the past and are out of touch with the modern world."

No Country is set in 1980, but for much of the movie you'd never know it. The west Texas border country, and its characters, have a timeless quality. Josh Brolin stars as the laconic Llewellyn Moss, a Vietnam vet who looks like a Marlboro Man and lives in a trailer park. While hunting, he stumbles across a pickup truck surrounded by dead men, with a load of cash and \$2 million in the back. He makes off with the money, setting off a declaration of killings as he's tracked by a psychopath trader named Anton Chigurh (Javier Bardem), a ruthless man in black. Anton carries around a tank of compressed gas that he uses to blow holes in people's brains. With *Twelve Cents*, he'll have a coin to decide the fate of a murder manager. And as the movie mounts, setting

sherriff (Tommy Lee Jones) investigates with weary resolve, baffled by this unknown terror that rocks the land like a biblical scourge.

The blooded in battle, blood and anghel find. It's the opposite of Tennessee violence. "It's not the violence in this film is not human," Brinkh told me in a secure interview. "You're incredibly disturbed by it. When a character dies, he just dies. That's how it happens in life. My mother hit a tree in a car and that was it. That's real. It's not against Hollywood manipulated moments."

In another interview, Brinkh, who is the film's embodiment of brutality, confessed a physical aversion to firearms. "When they were giving me that gun, God, I could barely hold them," said the Spanish actor. "But this is a story of people trying to use violence to resolve things and realizing it only destroys things. One of the reasons I said I want to do

that should be anger it as a logic piece, with No Country's Tommy Lee Jones playing another way says looking at an uncomfortable horror in the heart of the American Southwest.

By contrast, Robert Redford's *Lone For Lemmings*, which opens this week, is a delicate, unassuming, but centered narrative that intertwines three related scenarios. In Whistling, a powerful Republican senator (Tommy Lee Jones) pushes a story about a child soldier strategy in Afghanistan to a skeptical journalist (Meryl Streep), on a California campus, a political science professor (Redford) tries to persuade a disaffected student

And it's just as poignant, infusing red and blue viewpoints in a patriotic message, while the "stern" and the rest of the world, across a fictional cliché. Brian De Palma's *Rodriguez*, opening next week, is no less true in its approach to dramatize small-life atrocity by American troops in Iraq. But at least it has the decency to examine the toll of the Iraq war on non-Americans.

These are national dramas, and, unlike most, unlike movies from the '70s. They don't have much more for art, which requires mystery as well as meaning. The tenor of our time is more disquietingly exposed in films that are not so closely tied to the headlines. You can see it in a wave of crime films that crudely line the line between right and wrong—and in the Coen and Abel brothers' (in) coherent *Eastern Promises*, *W. O. W.*, *Before the Devil Knows You're Dead*, and for a sobering view of America's role in Palestinian terrorism, look at the epidemic of complex, corrupt and murderous cops in movies like *Elek*, *American Gangster*, and *Bea*. At Redford's companion directorial debut, *Goat*, *Baby*, *Goat*.

As director and star of *Lone For Lemmings*, Redford—former golden boy of Hollywood—effers out his desperation and too heavily. But a contemporary equivalent to *All the President's Men*, the 1976 movie that painted Redford's image of rugged rising

ring, Rodriguez is far better example. "Too long and complex to be popular," David Finkel's procedural feat of investigative journalism chronicles an intricate hunt for a real-life evidence who remains elusive and mysterious. A ghost. He could be the grandeur played by Javier Bardem in the Coen brothers' film, an embodiment of terror on an alien planet where heroes learn they are fallible, and the bad guys are still standing when the smoke clears. Nowhere is that landscape more haunting than in *No Country for Old Men*. On the darkest horizon of American cinema, it may well be the movie of the year. ■

The Coen brothers would never be so uncool to admit they've made an anti-war picture



BEAG FALLOUT: Tommy Lee Jones in *No Country for Old Men*; Brinkh, Redford and Cruise in *Lone For Lemmings*

this movie is when they say 'no country for old men,' I say 'no world for old men—old men in the sense of values and ethics.' That is an important passage into a culture of guns. The White House, with this whole, crosses war to impose power, and violence causes horror, like we're seeing in Iraq." The Coen brothers would never be so uncool to admit they've made an anti-war picture. But "that's my interpretation," affirms Bardem. "Other was I couldn't watch the movie."

Hollywood didn't exploit the Vietnam War until it was over—with *The Deer Hunter* in 1978 and *Apocalypse Now* in 1979. America's war on terror has been pushed to the biggest screen much faster, unfettered by the price of third sight. By the end of 2007 it will have gone said in its dozen dramatic features. *A Mighty Heart*, in the Valley of Risk, *The Kingdom*, *Alien*, *Infected*, and *Lone For Lemmings*. Many of the best films are so white hot with outrage, and so on message, they have the subtlety of a suicide bomb. One exception is *A Mighty Heart*, Michael Winterbottom's recent movie, which manages to dramatize the ordeal of a terrorism victim without denouncing the captives. And Paul Haggis' *In the Valley of*

no show some commitment, and in the mountains of Afghanistan, two soldiers—former students of the professor who ordered out of *Idaho*—are carried by enemy insurgents. Joined with fire and arguments, the dialogue hammers away at a like a rugged panel discussion. It's fascinating to watch Streep scramble to stick some realism into her lines so she acts circles around Cruise—archly type cast as a politician. Tag teaming himself for the presidency. First Streep is an ex-CIA horse in a situation, now she's the last hope of liberal journalism, burned out by White House spin, a life-time obsessed media and hot flashes. Buy girl.

Scripted by Matthew Michael Carnahan, *Lone For Lemmings* is a verbal caustic to *The Kingdom*, his war-on terror movie

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Meryl Streep will return next week. This week's bestseller list is at www.mca.com/books



WE'RE STALKING

The numbers are in on the divorce-gossip drive. According to court documents in her child custody dispute, Britney earns \$584,000 a month, but she also spends \$54,000 on clothes. She gambles through \$4,448 when dining out. Even though she's notorious for eating at drive-throughs, she also forks over \$18,720 to Kevin Federline in special support. He's no Oscar nominee either. Out of a half-million in savings last year, he netted just \$4,950.

BRITNEY SPEARS

The numbers are in on the divorce-gossip drive. According to court documents in her child custody dispute, Britney earns \$584,000 a month, but she also spends \$54,000 on clothes. She gambles through \$4,448 when dining out. Even though she's notorious for eating at drive-throughs, she also forks over \$18,720 to Kevin Federline in special support. He's no Oscar nominee either. Out of a half-million in savings last year, he netted just \$4,950.

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MAYBE IF Barnett's wife and the rest of the Swings had crafted a family mission statement, they could have avoided some distressing rows.

Your mission: just don't blow it all

Family mission statements help to ensure that the legacies of the wealthy are secure

BY JOHN IVINS • The Swingers' family mission statement is written in burgundy print on the wall above the kitchen sink. "It's a modest reminder as to what you're trying to accomplish in life," says Thomas Swinger, a father of three and the managing director of Vancouver-based Swinger Investment Partners, which serves the interests of super-rich Canadians and helps them facilitate family mission statements by guiding principals on everything from wealth to religion to their own. Some of the themes incorporated into the Swingers' statement are relationships, community and work. And, says Thomas, the mission has regularly formed the basis for conversations around the family's annual oak dinner table since he began an effort to put it on the wall two years ago. "It acts as a filter by which we make decisions."

For a growing number of upper crust Canadians, family mission statements, which can cost tens of thousands in consultants' fees, are also providing a way of passing down wealth to their kids in preparation for the millenials that will ultimately come their way. For the fortunate few, this matter is of great concern. An estimated \$1 trillion will be passed between generations in the next few decades. And a study of Canadians found that nearly a quarter of those worth at least \$10 million worry that their fortune will make their children lazy. A mission statement, say experts, can help identify how a family wants to spend its money. "This way the kid doesn't grow up thinking they're going to get a fortune when they turn 18," says Murray Becker, BMO's Toronto-based vice-president and managing director of philanthropic services.

Not unlike in the corporate world, where mission statements are common place, some

family statements are highly detailed (several page constitutions), while others are concise (sometimes a sentence or two). In most cases, mission statements focus on a family's core interest: to charity, community, business, one another and, in many cases, God. Commonly used words include "legacy," "excellence" and "stewardship." And they shouldn't require regular revision—a good thing, since professional mission could cost a fortune. Some elite-rich families are said to have spent as much as \$100,000 for an expert's help in drafting their words to live by.

Though a family could scribble its guiding principles down while sitting together in the living room, experts recommend the use of a facilitator. That way, they argue, each family member has an equal role when drafting a document. It is, after all, a shared voice. "I enable the quiet ones to find their voice and the vocal ones to find their ears," says David C. Barnett, the Vancouver-based president of Next Step Advisors, which provides family business consulting. Barnett, along with his wife, Alison, crafted a mission statement for their family of six about 10 years ago.

Though it depends on the complexity of the issues and the size of the family, Barnett says it usually takes several months to hammer out a mission statement—volubly two

or three meetings with a facilitator. The average cost: somewhere between \$50,000 and \$100,000. "The money is not about the words but the process to get to that," says Barnett. Swinger's firm offers a quicker approach via a virtual party consultant for \$2,500 to \$1,000 (no kids involved). He says half of his company's 42 multi-outsource and billionaire clients—the parents of whom has a net worth of more than \$10 million—have mission statements. "The families who have gone through the process tend to get along a lot better and tend to have fewer problems," he claims.

Though he concedes that a family mission statement may sound "silly," Swinger argues that they help families avoid many common pitfalls. "Something like 70 per cent of all divorces occur due to arguments over finances," says Swinger. "Family mission statements are there to help minimize friction."

Still, critics argue that family values are best passed down through parenting, not through a vague mission hanging in a frame above the mantle. They also note, in many, as another example of frivolous overspending by the wealthy. Not so mention perceptions. Becker, however, insists that they're actually quite practical. "Families and fortunes come apart when people don't communicate," he says. "Having a mission statement that everyone buys into can avoid the surprise and resentment that may come later, like at the taste of the will." ■



HOTTEST IMPROVED:

PEREZ HILTON
The celebrity blogger and self-proclaimed Queen of All Things emerged triumphant from a 100! trial last week. DJ and hip-hop singer Beyoncé's fiancé, Hilton, had sued Wilson for US\$20 million after he reported she may have owned the cocaine found in Hilton's car after she crashed it. Hilton's lawyers successfully argued Wilson was infringing on his freedom of speech. Hilton must now pay Hilton's \$50,000 legal costs.

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Nintendo

Tuning in to your body's rhythms

From shaving to sex to setting an athletic record, there's an optimum time each day

TO BEGRANTHINK—It's not surprising that there is a host of it that get Jennifer Adams thinking about the mysterious suit of stars that was born this in her. It's only in the absence of appetite, time, and real life sleep that we become aware that the reason of us, most of the time, our bodies work so seamlessly we scarcely notice there are actors. For all our consciousness of body image—star for thighs or hanging breasts—we rarely have little sense of body function. The result of Adenium's applying is in the religiously written *Sex, Sleep, Sex, Death, Disease* (Thomas Dunne), full of the lines information on what's hap pening within us from walrus to deer.

The subject being the body—is so much easier, yet, eerily aspect of contemplation than the mind, at least in traditional Western thought—some of Ashkenazi's informants might help explain why we don't like to dwell on it. Most people are aware, for instance, of the presence of so-called "good bacteria" in their bodies, used to digestion, but how many want to know that the bugs mean to an entire hologram—a Sunday restaurant roil of microbes coats their guts? Or fact, as traces of individual cell growth, humans are about 99 per cent microbial,¹ just as notable in the appalling-financing department is Ashkenazi's occasional reference to how ancient Jewish important culture often about our inner workings in the days before X Rays and CAT scans.

Take Alvin S. Martin, sometimes known as Guinea Pig Zero, a key (if unwilling) Canadian contributor to the science of digestion. A young man accidentally shot in the stomach in 1922, he spent much of the next 18 years being experimented on by the U.S. Army surgeons who saved his life. Dr. Martin was

Then there's the anonymous USAF pilot victimized by a 1990s *in-flight disconnect* policy of having them sleep in their cockpits, ready (happily) for mission action. In crisis, though, the accident rate soared as high as the pilots. That's how few scenarios stress the brain in time to pump out enough sweat for muscles to restore autonomy: test subjects, during the first half-hour of being abruptly awoken, were out-performed on cognitive skill tests by a barely awake control group.

Sleep inertia, as it's known, happens to all of us, but exactly when it does is an individual matter. We are all, so some diagnose, larks (morning singers) or owls (night fiends). In extreme versions they're completely opposite—the former peak in alertness at 11 a.m., the latter at 3 p.m. Strangely, for a species that tallies its days for larks, two-thirds of us lean the other way, which may explain the economic lurch of the sleepy stock industry.

These rhythms are built right into our biology, the legacy of evolving on a rotating planet. For trillions of days our ancestors, right back to single-celled organisms, cycled through light and dark, hot and cold. Some biochemical processes were kept safe from sunlight

and reserved for darkness, some the opposite, all will continue within our individual circadian rhythms. Temperature increases during the day—12°? Can the morning actually indicate a fever—and our later temperature increases also bring peaks in pain tolerance, reflex speed and hand-eye coordination.

These rhythms are so important, scientists have lately discovered, that the future of precision drugs will lie in understanding them at specific times to maximize their efficiency. Right now, Asherman notes, a careful person can still take advantage of the newest research. It's safer to share a flu shot, she notes, when clot-forming blood platelets are most abundant and sticky. (That's also why heart attacks peak at that time.) Visit the dentist in late afternoon, when the gums themselves

in your south is at its highest. The best time to have a drink (politically speaking, anyway) is between 5 and 6 p.m., when your liver is in its finest and most lively hour. Arriving for an athletic record? Then schedule your try for late afternoon or early evening.

Sex, however, is a rather easy routine. In the modern world, more for convenience than anything else, it mostly happens late at night. Distinctions, however, are also in the morning.

and sperm production in the afternoon. But Asherman dismisses those claims, except for couples struggling to conceive, given the reduction in stress and depression brought by sex. "The bad we so often use it for the end of the day and not the start." ■

ALFRED A. LUTER, JR., PH.D., is professor and director of the Center for the Study of Religion and Culture at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

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JULIA CHILD (always just 'Julia' for the culinary for-the-know) and fellow cookbook author Simone Beck in 1970 in Child's kitchen

How to drive a food snob crazy

A new culinary cheat sheet makes everyone an expert on 'meezing' and Traulsen fridges

BY ANNE KINGSTON • It's a crying time for the aspiring food snob. Before culinary minutiae once accessible only to a select, chosen few now can be had by anyone with a TV and Internet access. With on Food TV to learn how to imitate, or that great site a pseudo James Beardo de Bellot comes from soon eating Spanish pigs. Anthony Bourdain's *Kitchen Confidential* and Bill Buford's *Hungry* demystified the restaurant kitchen. As if Paul Provencher's *Blackboarder* restaurant, in which the food reader that actor was based on Thomas Keller, the revered chef whose cult following has morphed into a mob. It's only minutes before some version of hellfire Berkshire pork shows up at McDonald's.

New more culinary deconstruction has arrived with the publication of *The Food Snob's Dictionary: An Essential Lexicon of Gastronomic Knowledge* by David Kamp and Marie Perle. Kamp, the author of the terrific 2004 book *The United States of America: How We Became a Great Nation*, has clearly contributed his research into a re-evaluation of the who's who and what's what of the current food scene—from Anne Boleyn to Ziegler's (don't miss the only Canadian entry). With such tools, the author deftly lampoons "the art of food observation" for which the actual joy of eating and cooking is but a side dish to the accumulation of arcane knowledge about those who eat. All the while providing inside look for the wannabe.

Certainly there's no shortage of topics to reach-food observers' attempts to own something each other with bourgeois affluence to use others; their boasts about cooking

from *The Silver Spoon's* original Italian edition, their wistful use of fine names (Julia instead of Julia Child), their appropriation of restaurant jargon (the very for many jobs includes the new shorthand verb "meezing," as in "Honey, I've meezed everything for Julia's superior de relâche à la fois"). Kamp and Perle's level-headed in modest pursuit—the "reprehensible world of hedge fund reputation food snobbery" willing to pay four figures to reserve a 2009 supply of the cow and James Beardo de Bellot is who gilds \$6,000 menuer machines rather than the charcoal for perfect byproducts. Yet predictably the book is preoccupied with branding and buying, be it gourmet modifiers like Maytag cheese or the taxonomy of equipment, such as the fact that restaurant-grade Traulsen fridges trump suburban Sub-Zeros, and Wolf ranges beat Vikings.

The denouement traces the d-f of foodies away from acute bourgeois instincts to trivial taste, like truffle, farm-to-table, and sustainable food, all of whom open up a vast world of new possibilities for righteous deconstruction. To what of "complicated," "herby turkey," and a cornucopia of the finest animal vegetables, there's little finish here—mostly no mention of the current alpha foodie, the "foodies," who adhere to the 100 Mile Diet.

What's abundant is nostalgia for the golden days of food snobbery, before the arrival of the social media and every successful chef opened a Vegas franchise. The book is peppered with well-known examples of the characteristic oddball platters responsible for the current food landscape, none of whom could ever make a past a first edition for Food TV. (Leave it to the snobs to quibble over seasons like *MasterChef* and *Top Chef*.) The book rightly celebrates icons like Fernand Point, "godfather of nouvelle cuisine," which is the author's past with his revolutionary French food movement, not merely my personal on a big plate.

Such regard for the past, however, can result in an occasional foodie-on-a-stick quality, their chef perfectionism for every virgin olive oil, for instance, yet none for Mass, a current in food-based. But, then, Kamp and Perle's audience probably won't notice. The authors may dismiss Zagar's as useful only for addresses and phone numbers, but they're ignoring the same crowd, which is shrewd. "Food snobs won't be it because they're too snobby," says Alison Frier, manager of Toronto's Lookbook Store, who sold out first order of the book. "But people who will give it to food snobs." And when they do, you know they'll read it—only if given to themselves that they really didn't read it. ■

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VP IN CHARGE of making you look good: Bentley, former PA to hip-hop mogul Diddy, is now a celebrity and a "boss" in his own right

The personal assistant wears Prada

How style entrepreneur Fonzworth Bentley became the Emily Post of the hip-hop world

BY JORDAN TILLY • Holding a pistol above the head of a hip-hop mogul, shaking him from the French Riviera sun. It's an unlikely way to launch a career, but it worked for a dandy named Fonzworth Bentley. In 2000, a photo of the wits of a well-appointed Diddy (formally known as Paul Diddy) on *Wassup* (later *Real*) was, intended by his then personal assistant (PA), the cover of *Time* and *People*, and called upon by television hosts, and helped turn Bentley into a celebrity in his own right. Riding his reputation to TV appearances, endorsements, a record deal and a now-legendary ball, Bentley is living the fantasy that's drawing many ambitious graduates to the booming celebrity personal assistance field.

Bentley's rise reflects the growing prominence of the PA as a pop-cultural archetype. Consider the fictional *Andy Sachs*, chasing her dream job in journalism by working as PA to a tyro-turned-fashion magazine editor in *The Devil Wears Prada*. On celebs' taste websites like TMZ, assistants often slip into the spotlight. Britney Spears's PA, for instance, is regularly photographed by her side at the singer's exclusive nightclubs as a *je ne sais*. Sometimes, they even become part of the story itself when Lindsay Lohan was arrested for drunk driving and her assistant, the house-to-night escapee involved, both her assistant Taren and her mother.

People are drawn to the profession by the prospect of scandal and reflected glory—but the old notion of the Gilded Girl who gets office and runs errands is outdated, says Dwayne Mahaffey-Mukham, the founder of Celebrity Personal Assistants Inc., a U.S. firm with 41st clients from the worlds of film, fashion, TV and sports. "You have the

educated and the middle class looking at these behind-the-scenes entertainment positions," she says. "You have individuals who would otherwise come out of college and seek a position at a big firm."

Even the most recent edition of *The Princeton Review's Best Entry Level Job* guidebooks for college grads features a section on being a PA. "Personal assistants are now life-style managers," Mahaffey-Mukham says. "When you have someone who has a very complex life, you have to have respectable management skills—people management, communication, P.R., from request to answering to customer service to etiquette, dining, follow-up—there's a plethora of things that an assistant needs to know to be effective. I would rate it a two or C-."

In this regard, Bentley—well educated, well paid and now powerful—is the prototype. Along with the name Diddy, Bentley is known to parties as the *Dee Dee* of the business world, he attended many Morehouse College—also known as the film of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Spike Lee. In his authorial debut, *Advanced Your Swagger: How to Use Manners, Confidence, and Style to Get Ahead*, he offers tips on etiquette and dress, but the book's underpinnings—and no doubt the attraction for every reader—is the story of how he moved to New York City "without knowing

used in the entertainment industry," earned his way into a job as Diddy's PA, then used that opportunity to "break [himself], and become one of the players in the industry."

The Bentley-style crossover is the draw for lots of the wannabes who respond to CPA's job postings. "There are people who want to use it as a stepping stone," Mahaffey-Mukham says. "We stay away from candidates who say, 'I want to be an actor, so I want to be an assistant to an actor.' Go find an agent. We're hoping you'll get discovered because you're getting his day cleaning! Nine times out of 10, that's not going to happen."

Even Bentley's story isn't that simple. Though he claims not to have known a soul in the industry, he was childhood friends with Andre 3000, one half of superstar hip-hop duo OutKast, and dined with Bill Cosby at the comedian's home while still at Morehouse. Those who lead him to jobs may find him less than they expected, even if they follow directly in Bentley's footsteps. Diddy is currently using Bentley as the PA, but says with a publicity stunt, looking for a new assistant via YouTube. In a video filmed on his yacht in Saint-Tropez, the hip-hop star surveys the scenery and announces to his prospective applicants, "You'll probably be placed like this with me." Then he points to a mountain of luggage. "And you'll probably be carrying a bunch of really-f---ing bags like that." "I would want a candidate who responded on the first day the job was posted." ■



JAY-Z... HAS SOMETHING TO SAY
Mad stars of a gangster from the '90s? (Bentley has been to mind of *Waterbury's* *Becky Gordo* / *Torrey* took rock into a chain of 4200s / *I Sorry my jewelry is so pretty / I did it in the party with my day out of Miami's / Afterlife, meet the gangster's* *Blaine Carey* / *My young woman, make her a story / Close your eyes and you can pretend you're me / I'm out from the club of the* *Rockytop*—*Prey from Jay-Z's* *American Gangster* soundtrack.



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THE SUPERNATURAL TV shows like *Shark*, *Wipeout*, *Pushing Daisies* and *Ringer* have discovered the lighter side of fantasy

Do you believe in magic? TV does.

For the networks, fantasy is the next big thing—just as long as it isn't too dark

BY JAMIE A. WEISMAN • What if only a few years ago that most new TV shows were hyper-realistic procedurals? Now networks want fantasy, and the farther removed from real life the better. *Pushing Daisies*, one of the most successful new shows of the season so far, is about a hero with the magical power to raise the dead. The highest-rated new set on the CW network *Supernatural*, which is currently forced to work for seven and has the power to bring escaped souls back to hell—and to move shopping carts with his mind. Add warring sisters like *Heroes* (super-powered teenagers), *Melrose* (psychic housewife) and *Glenn* (dead people talk to Jennifer Love Hewitt), and it's clear that when once the networks wanted cops and crooks, now they want magical powers.

For many years, fantasy (along with its cousin, science fiction) was a hard sell on major networks. Cable and syndication had its share of magic and monsters, and shows like *Raffi* the Vampire Slayer and *Charmed* managed long runs on the small, struggling WB network. But among executives at the bigger networks, fantasy was considered a niche market, something for the audience that played *Dungeons and Dragons*. But today, networks are scrambling to bring magic to even niche audiences. Jeff Menkin, author of fantasy novels such as *Witch Season* and many others, is in touch with fantasy TV shows like *Raffi*, says that whereas fantasy was "the noisiest" in the past, today "there's definitely a new mainstream acceptance of fantasy themes in its own environment."

What changed? One thing was that fantasy suddenly became mainstream: Peter Jackson turned *Lord of the Rings* into a mass-market sensation, J.R. Rowling made it mandatory

to read about a magical world. But it's not as if people want to see just any show about supernatural occurrences. Fantasy shows that are too dark, or even too close to reality, have trouble becoming mainstream hits. Before creator Bryan Fuller hit it big with *Pushing Daisies*, he flopped with *Wonderfalls*, about a young woman who was dropped and whose supernatural encounters might be a sign of eventual death. *Pushing Daisies* is much lighter and sweeter, and there's no doubt that the hero's powers are real. Now *Wonderfalls* is on DVD or Doctor can get away with violence and darkness, but for anything with the supernatural in it, viewers want something nice.

Networks have made fantasy safe for average viewers by adopting what TV history and comedy writer James Lipton has called the "Chosen One Paradigm." In an article for the *New Republic*, Lipton wrote that the most popular fantasy series, like *The Star Wars*, *Harry Potter* and *Raffi*, are about ordinary people who discover that they have been chosen to fulfill a destiny. "The curtain is pulled back and a whole new world, or a new set of rules of this world, is revealed. And what's more—and this is the important part—in that new world, they are connecting special."

These shows tell us that regular people can be special and magical. Though shows like *Pushing Daisies* and *Ringer* deal sympathetically

with real-world themes, the wish-fulfillment aspect gives them an escapist appeal. Michele Fusco, who created *Ringer* with Tara Jacinto, adds that this type of storytelling makes it easier for the audience to relate to a fantasy world. "It's a love the person that represents the audience. The main character is lowering this world along with the audience, so you kind of see through their eyes."

Another advantage of this format is budget. Any *Chosen One* fantasy world would be almost impossible on TV budgets. By putting a few fantasy elements into a mundane world of chain stores and parking lots, a show like *Ringer* manages to tell stories about dark-er supernatural murders even though Fusco and Jacinto admit that they don't have a lot of money for special effects. "We say, let's have one or two gross effects, rather than 30 currency effects," says Fusco. "We write from the perspective of, let's write a great story and then decide what's feasible."

While fantasy shows don't require a lot of money, they do require new ideas, and the networks may already be running low. CBS's *Moonlight*, about a vampire-sucking vampire, has a premise that was already used by the cable show *Blood Ties*. But as Fusco points out, network magic "never cycles." Tara and I came off *Law and Order: Special Victims Unit*, and for a while, everyone was doing cop show parodies." So if the networks run out of fantasy ideas, they can always go back to procedural. It's the circle of TV life. ■



POLITICAL PRONOUNCEMENTS... ACCORDING TO TV Hillary Clinton's meltdown during the debate's other night confirms to be the big story. Even Bill Clinton said it was Hillary's worst performance since their honeymoon. —Judy Leno
"Observers in Barack Obama's campaign say that Obama has been switching old tapes of Bill Clinton to imitate his style. Which explains why Obama now starts every sentence with 'Honey, I see you.'" —Gwen O'Brien

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10

THE GOAL JUDGE

1877-2007

Attacked by players and fans alike, he was the game's final arbiter, and the referee's lifeline

The hockey goal judge, or umpire as he was first known, came into being some time around 1877 in Montreal. Like many aspects of hockey's origins, exact details are sketchy. But what is certain is that the goal judge was born a powerful figure, at least as important as the referee.

In those early games, there were no hockey nets, just metal posts. And the goal judge stood on the ice, just behind them. Umpires typically wore no more equipment than a heavy coonskin coat. Injuries were common. "It was a hazardous trade," says hockey historian Bill Fitsell.

The umpire played a vital yet often thankless role, deciding if the puck, in its entirety, crossed between the posts (a job description that wouldn't change for over 100 years). When a goal was scored, the umpire would wave a white flag or ring a bell. Disputes were common and disgruntled players were known to snipe shots at the goal judge in anger.

Early on, there was talk of developing a helmet for umpires, says Fitsell. But instead, they were simply moved off the ice. By 1917, with the founding of the National Hockey League, all umpires were sitting safely behind the boards and they were given their now famous red light to signal goals. Their new perch offered protection from the action on the ice, but put them closer to another threat—the fans. In one playoff game in 1938 in New York, fans were said to have held down one goal judge's hands to stop him from signalling a goal. Modern-day goal judges speak of being pelted with mustard-covered hot dogs and other arena projectiles.

Despite their sway, goal judges weren't always unbiased. As recently as the 1970s, they were employed by teams, not the league. Those who erred too often in favour of the home squad could be replaced by the referee. In 1927, the New York Americans, under the ownership of bootlegger Bill Dwyer, were accused of installing a goal judge with orders to hit the red light if the puck got near the opposing team's goal line. In another match, the umpire taunted Ottawa goalie Alex Connell through the wire mesh above the boards to the point that the netminder butt-ended him in the nose. In more recent times, players would smash their sticks or spit on the glass in front of the judge.

Becoming a goal judge wasn't difficult. There was no eye test, and no forms to fill out. According to one veteran goal judge, who asked

that his name not be used, training consisted entirely of the following lecture: "You're the goal judge. If the puck crosses the line completely, turn the light on. If it doesn't, don't." They weren't well paid either. In the 1970s they received about \$15 a game, and more recently, \$80.

Carlton "Mac" McDiarmid, a long-time goal judge at the Montreal Forum, recalls one of his first NHL games in the early 1970s. When a Toronto Maple Leaf player wound up to take a slapshot at his net, he excitedly, and prematurely, signalled a goal. The

puck was stopped by the netminder. Referee Andy Van Hellemond came up to him between periods to offer him some sound goal-judge advice. "He said, 'Look, Mac, it's better to be a second late than a second early!'"

The 1980s were the heyday of the goal judge. To highlight their importance, they were reclassified in the NHL rule book as "off-ice officials" rather than just "minor officials." The league began sending in out-of-town goal judges to work playoff games, says Bryan Lewis, a former NHL director of officiating. Goal judges were a referee's lifeline, adds Lewis. "There were nights where you'd love someone to throw you a stone with a note attached saying, 'The puck was in the net!'" The goal judge provided that backup.

In 1991, video replay arrived in the NHL. In those first years, there were just two or three cameras at NHL games, and sometimes the proper angle on a close call was missing. Goal judges maintained their niche through the 1990s, says Lewis. "Their role wasn't diminished." But as video replay became more sophisticated, and with an army of video judges reviewing goals from multiple angles, the writing was on the wall. Goal judges still had a phone in their booth, linked to the scorekeeper at centre ice, but the referees stopped calling. Former goaltender Glenn Healy was once asked about the relevance of the goal judge in this day and age. "It's a great seat," he replied.

This season, the NHL goal judge was moved from his perch behind the net, where he had sat for 90 years. With contentious goals handled entirely by video, he can now be found tucked away in remote corners of arenas or in press gondolas, far from the action, and reduced to a token button-pusher. All that remains is his red light.

BY COLIN CAMPBELL

